Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-026
Tuesday
8 February 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-026 8 February 1994

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Peres, Musa Meet To Overcome 'Obstacles' 1
'Arafat, Peres Meet *[Cairo Radio]* 1
Musa, 'Arafat, Peres Express Hope *[MENA]* 1
Peres Views Meeting With 'Arafat *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Negotiations Continue in Cairo *[MENA]* 2

Palestinian Affairs

Islamic Jihad Head on Factions' Political Program *[AL-'AHD 28 Jan]* 2
Executive Committee Discusses Developments *[VOP]* 4
Fatah Official on Resumption of Armed Struggle *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
Egyptian Embassy Begins Gazans' Registration *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 8 Feb]* 5
Talk Stresses Inevitablity of Liberation, Independence *[VOP]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

President Addresses Nation, Views Various Issues *[Algiers TV]* 6
Dialogue Head Notes 'Positive' Contacts With FIS *[Algiers Radio]* 8
FLN Leader Explains Boycotting Dialogue *[AL-AHRAM 2 Feb]* 8
Political Parties Form New Body *[Algiers Radio]* 8

Egypt

Mubarak, Klestil Note Peace Process, Other Topics *[MENA]* 9
Islamic Militants Issue 'Final Warning' to Foreigners *[AFP]* 10
Some Groups Condemn Warnings *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 10
UN 'Neutrality,' World View of Bosnia Examined *[MENA]* 10
Paper Notes Lack of Foreign Policy in Clinton Speech *[AL-AHRAM 31 Jan]* 11

Sudan

Government Condemns Mortar Attack on Sarajevo Market *[PANA]* 11
Various Sectors React to Attack on Mosque 11
Interior Minister Comments *[SUNA]* 11
Origins of 3 Gunmen Identified *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 7 Feb]* 11
Opposition Blames Regime *[MENA]* 12
SPLA Faction Leader Comments on Various Topics *[London AL-HAYAH 7 Feb]* 12

Tunisia

President Submits Nomination for Next Election *[Tunis Radio]* 13

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Government Official, UN's Ekeus Meet, Discuss Iraq *[Kuwait TV]* 15

Yemen

People's Congress Regrets Socialist Party 'Conditions' *[Sanaa Radio]* 15
Socialists Hail Amman Decision, Deny 'Conditions' *[INA]* 16
Socialists' Al-Bid Notes Political Crisis, Terrorism *[AL-AHRAM 3 Feb]* 17

IRAQ

Ekeus 'Not Fully Satisfied' on Chemical Weapons *[AFP]* 20
Editorial Urges Security Council To Lift Embargo *[AL-'IRAQ 2 Feb]* 20
Clinton's 'Heretical Approach' Toward 'Siege' Noted *[BABIL 2 Feb]* 21
Symposium Participants Urge Action To End Sanctions *[INA]* 21
U.S. Reaction to Continuing Arab Boycott Viewed *[AL-THAWRAH 30 Jan]* 22
Article Ridicules 'Lame' Arab Lobby in U.S. *[AL-THAWRAH 30 Jan]* 22
Iran's Interference in Arab Affairs Denounced *[INA]* 23
Saddam Receives Cable From Islamic Jihad Amir *[BABIL 1 Feb]* 24
Vice President Receives Jordanian Delegation *[Baghdad Radio]* 24
Car Explosion Kills 3 Security Officials *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 25
Government Forces Reportedly Shell Marshlands *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 25
T-72 Tanks Reportedly Deployed in Central Iraq *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 25
Clashes With Money Changers Reported *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 25
Paper Reports Tribal Loyalties to Saddam *[BABIL 30 Jan]* 25

ISRAEL

Leaders React to Hizballah Attack on IDF Troops 26
Rabin Comments on Syrian Role *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Likud Head 'Demanding' Retaliation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
IDF Chief of Staff Comments *[Jerusalem New Channel TV]* 26
'Sources' on Syria Using Hizballah *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Concern Expressed Over Fatah Hawks-Hamas Cooperation *[HA'ARETZ 7 Feb]* 27
Beilin: Government To Resign If Defeated in Referendum *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Poll: Ramon Best for Premier After Rabin, Peres *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 4 Feb]* 28
Three Tzomet MK's Suspend Decision To Resign *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Settlement Council Role in Protest Moves Viewed *[DAVAR 3 Feb]* 28
IDF Seen Out of Place in Negotiating Process *[HA'ARETZ 8 Feb]* 30
Czech Premier Meets Weizman, Likud Chairman *[Prague Radio]* 31
Rabin, Klaus Sign Cooperation Accord *[Prague Radio]* 31

JORDAN

Diplomat Denies 'Crisis' in Ties With Iran *[MENA]* 32
'Brutal Massacre' in Sarajevo Market Denounced *[Amman Radio]* 32
Economic, Trade Talks Held With Chinese Delegation *[Amman Radio]* 32
Delegation Views Cooperation, Departs *[JORDAN TIMES 5 Feb]* 33
Regulation on Food Safety, Drug Inspection Endorsed *[Amman Radio]* 34
IAF Position on Food, Drug Case Criticized *[JORDAN TIMES 5 Feb]* 34

LEBANON

Palestinian Reportedly Admits to Murder of Diplomat *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Possible Ties to Abu-Nidal Group Noted *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 36
Hizballah Official, Iranian Envoy Address Rally *[London AL-HAYAH 7 Feb]* 36
Wrapup of Hizballah, Israeli Actions in South *[AFP]* 36

SOUTH ASIA

Iran

Ayatollah Khamene'i: Country Not Seeking Banned Weapons *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Sources Note U.S. Attempt To Block Weapons Sale
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Feb] 38
Situation in Zahedan Remains 'Tense' *[Voice of Mojahed]* 38
Guards Reopen Airport *[London AL-SHARQ AL-WASAT 5 Feb]* 38
Security Minister Identifies Assassin's Group *[IRNA]* 39
Relates Other Details *[Tehran Radio]* 40
Besharati on Border Closure, Zahedan Incidents *[Tehran Radio]* 40
Rafsanjani Praises Resistance of Bosnian Muslims *[IRNA]* 40
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Second Friday Prayer Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 40
Meshkini in Qom Says Inflation Discussed With 'Leader' *[Tehran TV]* 41
Velayati, Afghan Delegation Meet, Discuss Events *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Azerbaijani President Meets Va'ezi in Baku *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Defense Ministry Denies Arms Sent Somalia's Aidid *[IRNA]* 42
Expansion of Ties Discussed With Ukrainian Group *[Tehran International]* 42
Resistance Activity in Lebanon Examined *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Paper Views Iran's Changing Role in Middle East *[London AL-HAYAH 3 Feb]* 43
Kurdish Radio Views Iranian, Turkish, Syrian Talks *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 43
Commentary Previews Upcoming Regional Talks *[Tehran International]* 44
Clandestine Reports Regime Tightening Security *[Voice of Mojahed]* 45
'Reactionary' Deputies' Opposition to Price Hikes Noted *[Voice of Mojahed]* 45
Commentary on Significance of Language, Culture *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Nonoil Export Figures Show Increase by Weight, Value *[Tehran Radio]* 45

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Peres, Musa Meet To Overcome 'Obstacles'

'Arafat, Peres Meet

NC0702220494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] A meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry at 2200 today between Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to discuss the obstacles still facing the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

Peres stated upon his arrival in Cairo tonight that his visit aims at continuing the dialogue on the peace process and the efforts to overcome the obstacles preventing the implementation of the Declaration of Principles as soon as possible. He expressed the hope that an agreement will be reached. He said that he came to meet with the Palestinian delegation, and expressed the hope that the differences will be resolved.

At 2230, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres held a bilateral meeting.

Musa, 'Arafat, Peres Express Hope

NC0802070194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2247 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Following the session of talks he held with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and the bilateral session between Peres and 'Arafat tonight, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that the two parties tried to find a solution to specific points regarding the Declaration of Principles. Musa refused to enter into the details of these points. He said that the talks, which went on for 90 minutes, were good, and he stressed the desire of the two parties to work seriously to reach an agreement.

Musa said the meeting that began today between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations will successfully reach solutions to the remaining problems.

He added that Egypt is not pressuring any of the parties. Its only hope is that the two parties will succeed in overcoming the obstacles. He said he cannot set a time limit for reaching agreement because there are many problems.

Musa noted that the two parties are discussing major issues, and when they solve them it will be possible to find solutions to the other issues.

In a statement after the session of talks, Palestinian President 'Arafat expressed his appreciation for the Egyptian role, and said that Foreign Minister Musa will continue his efforts to push the peace process forward to a comprehensive and just peace.

He said that he sensed a real desire on the part of Shim'on Peres to reach a final agreement. He added: We were about to reach such an agreement in Davos. We agreed to resume the talks in Cairo under the auspices and with the support of President Husni Mubarak.

He expressed the hope that the talks will end tomorrow, Tuesday, noting that both parties desire to reach agreement on the measures to implement the agreement as soon as possible.

Israeli Foreign Minister Peres said he hoped the talks will end tomorrow, adding that the two delegations had come with good intentions of reaching an agreement and not to bargain. They sense their responsibility. They also made some progress in Davos, Peres said and explained that what was agreed upon in Davos is acceptable and they intend to continue with it.

Peres said that in Davos 'Arafat proposed setting up two small committees [words indistinct] consisting of three members from each side to begin working to overcome the remaining obstacles. He added: We are here for important and positive work. He said that he speaks on behalf of the Israeli Government and that he represents the Israeli Government's policy.

He added: We will listen carefully to everything the PLO chairman has to say, and he will listen carefully to what we have to say in order to try to narrow the differences and resolve the outstanding problems.

Peres Views Meeting With 'Arafat

TA0902062994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat have held a late night meeting in Cairo. The teams have been instructed to negotiate as long as it takes to resolve differences.

Foreign Minister Peres says even if agreement is reached on the security issues, much work still remains, but he says that he and the PLO chairman have decided to stay on in the Egyptian capital until all the obstacles are overcome. David Ze'ev examines the reports from Cairo:

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told reporters in Cairo he has a mandate to reach agreements with the Palestinians. The Palestinians say they have been told that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has given his foreign minister the green light for what the PLO ambassador to Cairo said would be a breakthrough toward drafting an agreement on an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area.

Foreign Minister Peres repeated the Israeli position that much work remains, but he also said that his discussion with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat late last night in Cairo

was held in a positive atmosphere and that he was sure both sides will make a far-reaching effort to achieve agreements on whatever issues possible, and Peres said he has the authority to sign agreements. The reference is to the Palestinian anger that he would not sign after agreements were reached in Davos over a week ago and the PLO accusing Prime Minister Rabin of vetoing his foreign minister's achievements.

In the meantime, Peres and 'Arafat will remain in Cairo as their negotiating teams try to work out the differences. The teams have been instructed to hold marathon sessions toward reaching that objective. Despite the war of nerves that preceded the resumption of the negotiations, both Foreign Minister Peres and Chairman 'Arafat smiled and were upbeat after their meeting last night.

Here in Jerusalem, a senior Israeli official said the key in resolving the differences has been the open line with the Palestinians: the ability to pick up the phone, in the Israeli official's words, an option that exists both with the Palestinians and Jordan but not with Syria, preventing contacts with Damascus during breaks in the Washington negotiations to raise such issues as the Syrian role in the violence in Lebanon that claimed the lives of four Israeli soldiers yesterday.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 8 February carries a report on a telephone interview with Foreign Minister Peres in Cairo on 8 February. The report notes that "referring to the serious incident in the security zone in south Lebanon yesterday, Minister Peres said that one of the issues in the peace negotiations with Syria should be that of Damascus' curbing Hizballah."

[A report by Gay Bekhor and Aluf Ben on page A1 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 8 February adds: "In a session held at the prime minister's bureau prior to the departure of the Israeli delegation for Cairo, Rabin decided to accept Peres' position not to alter clauses in the understandings reached with the PLO in Davos. The prime minister rejected the demand by security elements to introduce certain amendments into the Davos document in order to underscore Israel's responsibility for security on the roads in Gaza and along the 'safe passages' of the Palestinians in the Jericho area."]

Negotiations Continue in Cairo

NC0802114894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is visiting Cairo, has stated that negotiations with the Palestinian delegation will continue in Cairo today and tomorrow if necessary.

Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators have faced no obstacles requiring consultation with their superiors.

Talks resumed this morning between the Palestinian delegation led by Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', and the Israeli delegation led by Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry. The talks started yesterday evening and continued into the night.

A meeting is expected later today among Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Shim'on Peres, and Yasir 'Arafat.

Elsewhere, Shim'on Peres and Yosi Sarid visited Filastin Hospital in Cairo, where an international conference is being held on psychiatric treatment for patients in the occupied territories.

Palestinian Affairs

Islamic Jihad Head on Factions' Political Program

NC0602093094 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 28 Jan 94 p 19

[Interview with Islamic Jihad Secretary General Fathi al-Shiqaqi by an unidentified AL-'AHD correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] What happened during the recent meetings of the 10 factions opposed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement? How did the factions overcome their differences? Or are there still many differences among them?

[Al-Shiqaqi] Since the beginning of September 1993, when news of the Oslo agreement began to leak, the 10 factions have been meeting to discuss the possibility of upgrading their year-old coalition. There was talk of establishing a national Islamic front with a political program that would be more advanced than the earlier points of minimum agreement among them and more developed organizationally. It took some time to agree on the front's name and its program. The disagreement at this stage was with the brothers in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine because of certain political differences over the interim program and UN resolutions. Eventually, faced with pressure to be responsible, all the conferees found common ground for building a political program and outlining political tasks within the context of a front called "The Alliance of Palestinian Forces." Ideological differences were avoided. After this, the meeting was adjourned for a week pending a new proposal that was being prepared by the brothers in Hamas.

On the evening of Wednesday, 15 January 1993, the last meeting was held. Hamas made a new proposal that appeared to call for a formula that was stronger than the existing 10 factions framework but still weaker than a front. It became apparent that the proposed political program, or rather the proposed political tasks, differed in more than one aspect than what had been agreed upon earlier. The organizational formula, however, treated all the factions as equals. The 5 January [date as published] meeting was tense and anxiety ridden at first and it appeared headed toward a deadlock.

Personally, however, I was optimistic and worked hard to bridge the gap between the position of the Hamas brothers and the positions of the other factions. I made several specific proposals to end the differences and when it became clear that my proposals would be received positively, we recessed the meeting for half an hour for private consultations within each faction and for bilateral consultations. During the recess I discussed the issue with the brothers in Hamas after holding quick meetings with the other factions. We returned to the conference room to announce that we had reached a full agreement that would satisfy everyone. An atmosphere of optimism and satisfaction replaced the tension and anxiety. We began to review the documents in a sincere and easy manner and decided to hold a news conference the next day to proclaim the happy news to our people about the establishment of "The Alliance of Palestinian Forces."

I can say that we have overcome the basic obstacles to such an alliance. However, there are pending issues of less importance. We will discuss them at a meeting of the central leadership in less than two weeks.

[Correspondent] Did you leave the meeting with a clearly defined program, or will you continue with the former methods?

[Al-Shiqaqi] We have agreed on clear and specific political tasks. Some are strategic and had to be spelled out in the agreement. Other tasks are interim and include the need to confront the Oslo agreement and its dangers. The basic tasks on which we agreed will guide our future activities. As for detailed plans, we will discuss them at future meetings. I will not hide from our people or the masses represented by our alliance that we are facing very difficult and complex circumstances. In the absence of any international or regional backing, what is being done on the real battleground inside Palestine will play the decisive role. The strength of the new alliance will be measured by its actual impact on the battle inside the homeland. We have taken an important step forward. Although we have no magical solutions, we are determined to do everything in our power to carry out the tasks on which we have agreed.

[Correspondent] What is your position on the election of the self-rule authority—if it takes place—and also on municipal elections?

[Al-Shiqaqi] We reject the Oslo agreement, known as Gaza-Jericho. We believe it is void and bad, and all its consequences are, therefore, null. The agreement brought disgrace to our people and planted illusions in their minds. As mujahid and leaders of the Islamic movement, we refuse to compete for this shame; we refuse to deceive our people and sell them illusions. I know that many good people believe that the elections have now become a reality and the participation of Islamists will make things less disastrous. I know they say that if the Islamists, honorable citizens, and others enter the elected council it will be better than one controlled by a Zionist-oriented group. But I tell these good people: I do not understand how can one remain Muslim, patriotic, honest, and honorable if he accepts—whether through his pen, tongue, or heart—this agreement, which has sold out Palestine to the enemies of the nation.

The agreement does not give our people anything. What are we going to contend for in the imaginary elections? The Palestinian who falls for the logic of spoils at this stage is extremely naive. All that we are doing is recognizing their occupation and helping them move easily toward the Arab and Islamic homeland in building their new Middle East. We will be serving only as a bridge for their ambitions and dreams. If we survive, we will be linked to them as the weak to the strong, the minority to the majority, the slave to the master, the worker to the employer, and the agent to the owner.

Just as we rejected the agreement, we will reject the elections. Our resolve cannot be shaken by any incentives. The future of Palestine is a million times more important than a lowly, worthless council. I advise all hesitant people and advocates of realism among those who once chose struggle and jihad not to come close to this pyre. I am convinced, however, that a certain party to the agreement will delete the election clause from the Declaration of Principles.

Concerning municipal elections or other ones, we determine our position based on their political significance and function. We will boycott any institution or organization stemming from the self-rule authority and entailing recognition of the Zionist enemy and its occupation of our land. But we will deal positively, as we did in the past, with the other institutions and with society's infrastructure.

[Correspondent] You strongly reject what is taking place. What alternative are you proposing, taking into account that the people continue to suffer in the occupied territories?

[Al-Shiqaqi] What is the cause of the people's suffering? The occupation, of course. According to the Oslo agreement, will the occupation end? No, the opposite is true. The enemy wants to rid itself of the occupation's burdens and costs but wants to maintain the occupation's essence and role. We will then have to bear an occupation with double the burden. When the occupation continues, in disguise or without one, it will cast the burdens that it used to carry onto our shoulders. Saying that the above agreement will end our people's suffering is a major illusion that they are trying to sell us. What is really serious is that we are buying this illusion at a price greater than any nation ever paid, namely by acknowledging the enemy's continued presence on the entire territory of our sacred homeland. When our people have arisen in this century it certainly was not for the purpose of filling their bellies. They rose up because they yearned for liberty, independence, identity, and the preservation of their faith and sanctities. If all this is lost, is it

important if one fills one's belly? Even the illusions of prosperity are belied by the conditions suffered by all peoples who accept humiliation.

This homeland is ours, the sea and the river are ours, and the olives and oranges are ours. The logic of the Koran and history underline these simple facts. Let us move according to this logic and struggle according to it. No matter how many battles the nation has lost, it still has not lost the war. It possesses aspects of power which, if properly organized, are capable of terrifying the invaders.

Palestine is the focus and pivot of polarization and renewal. The pain of jihad is a thousand times better than the pain of humiliation. Our alternative is steadfastness, endurance, and continued jihad until the balance of power changes. If we cannot defeat the enemy today, then at least let us not turn into a bridge over which the enemy can cross into the region to reshape it in the way he wants and in line with his goals, ambitions, and interests. We must not turn into allies and guides who show him the way as he presses ahead to control all the region's capitals. Let us continue to confront him and reduce his danger until the nation rises again and God permits change to come. The alternative to this is not peace and an end to suffering, but a Zionist, cancerous, destructive deluge.

[Correspondent] Why do you refuse to meet with Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Shiqaqi] We do not believe there is room for a meeting after the Oslo agreement; there is no point.

As for why no meeting was held before the agreement, the political issue was again the basic reason. We saw constant gratuitous retreat in 'Arafat's political position. Add to this the war of containment, absorption, and blackmail that the PLO chairman waged against the Islamic Jihad movement. He traded in the movement's name through some distorted figures he created on the Palestinian scene. Claiming to speak for the Islamic Jihad, for instance, someone once came up with an announcement supporting the Gaza-Jericho agreement at a time when six Fatah members rejected it. We cannot be blackmailed, and we are not the ones who stand at the door of the Sultan [i.e. we are not supplicants]. However, this did not prevent our meetings and dialogues over the years with Fatah leaders and cadres; they contacted us from time to time. They rejected the PLO chairman's practices against the Islamic Jihad and opposed his political line, even though he was the one who sent them.

[Correspondent] How does the Gaza-Jericho agreement affect Jordan? Why does Jordan fear the agreement?

[Al-Shiqaqi] For now, Jordan appears to be the biggest loser. The geopolitical situation does not allow three entities between Iraq's western border and the Mediterranean. The establishment of some independent entity in Jericho and the rest of the West Bank and Gaza will be at the expense of Jordan, and will cause sharp tension inside that country, where at least half of the population are Palestinians. As long as the agreement does not satisfy the Palestinians and gives them nothing, Jordan will remain the solution, the Palestinian homeland. If we consider the fact that the West and the Jews have believed that Jordan's role since its establishment was to deal with the consequences of the Balfour Declaration, then this role now appears to be in its final stages after an agreement that gave most of Palestine to the Israelis.

Jordan fears the loss of its role in the region; it fears dissolution. Regrettably, these fears are being reflected in suspect concessions in the talks with the Israelis. Indeed, the Palestinian Oslo team is competing with Jordan in the concessions each party is offering to maintain a role in an era of Israeli domination. This is the result of an agreement that was worked out secretly, away from the nation and the Palestinian people, and without minimal Arab coordination. It is an earthquake shaking an already cracked Arab settlement. After the Palestinian people, Jordan will be the first in a long queue of Arab and Muslim losers.

[Correspondent] If Hamas contests the self-rule elections, what will your position be? You will be standing alone against the plan.

[Al-Shiqaqi] The brothers in Hamas have repeatedly stressed to us that they are against the elections and that they will boycott them. They assert that their position is final and decisive. The program of the basic tasks of the Palestinian forces' alliance is clear in this respect.

At any rate, our position proceeds from our principled commitment to our people, homeland, and nation; from our understanding and analysis of the conspiracy against Palestine, and from our understanding and interpretation of the reality and the fact that the infamous agreement means an alliance with the enemy against the entire nation and region. We will remain witnesses before God and history, unharmed by those who oppose us. We will remain the conscience of the nation, even if we are reduced to only one person. However, we believe that a large sector of our people and their other leading forces stand with us in the same trench.

Executive Committee Discusses Developments

JN0702105494 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Under the chairmanship of leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the PLO Executive Committee met yesterday, Sunday, in the Tunisian capital. The

Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, reports that the PLO Executive Committee discussed the latest developments in the peace process and the obstacles placed by Israel on the path of implementing the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles agreement.

Fatah Official on Resumption of Armed Struggle

TA0402150594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Six Arab residents were injured by the Israel Defense Forces gunfire in the territories today. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that four residents sustained slight injuries when soldiers fired at stone throwers in Nablus. Another incident occurred in Rafah, where two residents were slightly injured when soldiers fired at stone throwers. [passage omitted]

Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, member of the Fatah supreme committee in the Gaza Strip, says the announcement by several Strip Fatah Hawks members of their intention to resume armed struggle is a spontaneous reaction to the killing of Salim Mu'affi, rather that a decision made by the organization. In a talk with our correspondent, 'Abd-al-Raziq said the continuing manhunt for Fatah Hawks by the security forces undermines the local population's confidence in the peace process.

Egyptian Embassy Begins Gazans' Registration

JN0802103494 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Feb 94 p 1

[Text] A press source at the Embassy of Palestine has said that the Egyptian Embassy in Amman has started handing out forms to be filled by evacuees from the Gaza Strip in order to carry out a census.

This procedure is aimed at maintaining the evacuees' right to return to their homeland, their identity, as well as all their acquired rights.

It should be noted that completing this form does not affect the evacuee's right to residency, work, commercial activity, and housing. For this purpose, Gazans should report to the Egyptian Embassy in Amman.

Talk Stresses Inevitablity of Liberation, Independence

JN0802080894 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the reality is that the enemy can no longer obliterate or send into oblivion, that it swims against the current, and covertly and overtly carries out actions which contradict its statements.

The ruling authorities in Israel still believe they can set the clock back and that it is possible to perpetuate the occupation while stepping up their talk about peace, as if it's realization is imminent. [word indistinct] the uproar continues.

Through all this, it becomes evident that what the Israelis want is to drag the peace process into mazes that, in case the peace process continues, will only undermine and destroy its very foundations.

From this premise, the enemy's procrastination and delaying tactics on the one hand, and the escalation of its terrorist operations against our steadfast people in the occupied homeland on the other are signs as to how official Israel approaches the peace process and its requirements. Official Israel's illusion has reached the point of believing it is possible to bypass, or distort the inalienable Palestinian rights under the slogan of introducing amendments to the Declaration of Principles. Five months after it was signed, Israel has not yet offered any evidence that it abides by the implementation of its provisions.

While we view the Declaration of Principles as a first step on the road to peace, we are aware, and emphasize that this agreement is not the end of the road, given that it is an agreement for a transitional stage and does not, as yet, respond to all our national aspirations for liberation and complete independence.

In spite of all the above, we stress to the enemy before anyone else, that we have the necessary potential, will, and confidence in victory that make us say with a resounding voice that Israeli blackmail will be to no avail, and that occupation will inevitably be eliminated. Let the enemy wallow as much as it wants in its illusions. However, it must realize before it is too late that its illusions will founder on the rock of our people's steadfastness and their unflinching faith in the inevitable victory and independence on the liberated land of Palestine.

Algeria

President Addresses Nation, Views Various Issues

LD0702232894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1902 GMT 7 Feb 94

["Address to the nation" by President Liamine Zeroual in Algiers—live relay]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon the most noble of messengers. Citizens—men and women: The country is going through a decisive stage in its history, amid international changes and developments on the national scene which place the country in a multifaceted crisis. We have talked a great deal about this crisis, and an exact diagnosis of it has been made. The time has come for us to look forward to the future with all of our strength and to face the situation with courage. This is the challenge facing all Algerians, men and women alike.

Algeria has capabilities, and its sons have sufficient ability, will, and determination to confront this challenge. We have to remove the spirit of despair and failure from our hearts, and regain creative initiative. Fortunately, the force that is motivating our society is the will of a vital people who aspire to self-realization and to prove itself as an active and effective force. We understand well and in depth the will of change, and we understand the aspirations of our people, particularly our youth, for development, justice, and progress. We work for the embodiment of this will and push the process of change to its aspired end. The political crisis in Algeria is in fact a crisis of a society that aspires for radical change and for the building of a developed Algeria, capable of taking its position in the modern world: an Algeria that realizes democracy and believes in the ethical and human values.

An Algeria that rejects backwardness and marginalization, an Algeria deeply rooted in its religion, its identity, and its history and confidently looking forward to the future. We stand for this ambitious Algeria which is able to win the challenges and which should launch all of its capabilities and resources in the battle of change. This change, which is a true break from the past, could only be comprehensive and all of the effective forces in society have to take part in the change, including political, economic, social, and cultural forces and honourable citizens. This Algeria, deeply rooted in its countryside, villages, and towns, with its youth, cadres, workers, farmers and women, exists in the fields, factories, universities, and institutions.

We will work to provide conditions and suitable frameworks to bring about a break with the past and a change.

Youth ought to understand that the current transformations, which must be completed in an atmosphere of security and stability, are aiming, in essence, at giving an opportunity to the new generations to play their role in the administration and the management of the country. And this is one of the main aims of the new national system.

We will provide all available resources and the necessary facilities for our youth to shoulder their responsibilities in order to shape their fate with confidence.

Citizens: I salute all of the national forces and the security forces and members of the People's National Army as well as our cadres, workers, and youth who have been attending to the country's safety and security, to the state's continuity, and to the normal work of the institutions.

I salute our community abroad, which will receive special attention in our work. We will take the necessary measures leading to the consolidation of its solidarity and the defense of its interests and allow it to take part in the national action and the country's economic development.

Citizens: In the political sphere we have chosen the path of dialogue to deal with the country's current situations, and as a basis for political practice. Despite the difficulties and hesitation by some sides, we are determined to continue serious dialogue according to the aims listed in the national consensus platform to which we are committed throughout the transitional period. These goals are to ensure the availability of political and security conditions and to revert to the path of democratic election, thus enabling the people to choose its representatives with total freedom and without any form of pressure and falsification. We realize that the political crisis can be solved only through dialogue and with the participation of the national political and social forces—without exception. Algeria has a defined program and a clear plan for dealing with the political crisis. We are in control of this path and firm in applying this program.

We would like to draw the attention of the foreign partners to the fact that we need calm, and we ask them to be reserved in their evaluations of our country's situation. In order to consolidate this path the National People Army—the offshoot of the Liberation Army—will always remain at the level of challenges and wagerings, and will make every effort to help the country to a suitable political and permanent solution through dialogue within the framework of the principles of the republic and by respecting the people's choice.

Citizens: We are convinced that the security solution alone is not enough to take the country out of the crisis, and that radical solutions to the political, economic, social, and cultural issues are inevitable.

Furthermore, the return of security and stability in the country as well as tranquility to the citizen will undoubtedly secure a quick solution to these problems.

We will use all resources to contain violence and end the bloodletting. The blood that is being shed is Algerian blood—the blood of our sons and daughters. Therefore,

it is imperative that we stop the bloodshed and free the country from violence once and for all. Violence as a way to political change and as a way to seize power is totally unacceptable.

Although we have been trying to free political action and organize it within the framework of law and away from all forms of violence and political manipulation, we will never tolerate those who are trying to sow the seeds of sedition and chaos, to destroy the country's material and human resources, and to tarnish its reputation. No religious, political, or cultural reason can explain or justify the crimes that have been committee against people and property.

The abnormal phenomenon in our country reflects nihilism and belongs to organized crime, whose main goal is to deal a blow to the nation's dynamic and real forces.

The law will be applied fully and strictly to the perpetrators of these acts. Those who have gone wrong and have not committed crimes against the nation can return to reason, sense, and adherence to the law. In this context, I would like to express my sympathy and support to the families of the victims of the crimes.

Citizens, everyone must be aware that political pluralism and democratic practice do not mean the weakening of the state or an undermining of its institutions. The new national order, devoid of political, ideological, economic, and cultural monopolies, can only be achieved in a state with strong institutions. This state must belong to all the Algerians, whatever their political affiliation.

In this context, the national media has a sensitive role to play in building the new national order. It has to rise to the level of responsibility to enlighten the public opinion and educate and promote it; promote its civil tendency; report the truth objectively, without distortion or falsification; inform it of what takes place around it; and raise it in a way that would serve the homeland.

Citizens: In order to get out of the current situation it is imperative for us to find solutions to the economic situation. This requires making decisions and taking practical measures that will effectively implement the economic reforms aimed at liberating the national economy from monopoly and centralization and providing the opportunity for creative initiatives to bring forth public and private economic and financial resources, as well as to build an advanced economy that complies with market laws and competition. All of this needs state protection for the more deprived social groups.

Appropriate solutions will be found for foreign debts, which are a heavy burden on the country, through negotiations with international financial institutions. Dealing with the economy will lead to temporary negative complications, which are the nature of any qualitative structural change. We will resolutely ensure that Algerians will share these complications within the framework of an effective national solidarity.

Citizens: Confronting the internal problems does not distract us from paying attention to the changes taking place around us in the world. Algeria, which is conscious of the new challenges, will do its best to determine its position in the new world order and play a vital role in the international cooperation and world peace.

In this respect, the need to build the Arab Maghreb Union appears to be a necessity imposed upon it. Algeria will use all its influence to achieve this noble goal. We will work sincerely to clarify the atmosphere for guaranteeing the interests of the peoples of the region and respect their will. This makes us give our complete support to the UN peace plan to settle the Western Saharan issue.

We emphasize the policy of good neighborliness and noninterference in internal affairs, and we are enthusiastic about consolidating the stability of the region and eliminating the causes of tension, conflicts, and extremism.

Algeria will continue to be committed to its solidarity with African peoples and the region's fateful causes.

Algeria will work for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and in the Arab region; it will welcome any initiative aimed at cleansing the atmosphere in the Arab world.

Algeria will also continue to play its role in the Mediterranean in order to make it a region of peace, cooperation, and stability; it will be committed to bolstering relations with the countries of the North and developing them on bases of common interests and mutual respect.

Citizens: In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to salute the Algerian people, who in this difficult situation have shown awareness, vigilance, and compassion, and have rejected violence and adventurism.

I would like to appeal to all Algerians to mobilize in order to regain our country's glory, pride, and might.

Citizens: I hope on the occasion of the advent of the blessed month of Ramadan, the month of atonement and forgiveness, that tranquility will return to the people, peace to the country, and love between the people. Surmounting crises can be achieved only through compassion and work.

May God's guidance make our work successful and Algeria a peaceful country.

Long live Algeria.

Eternal glory to our martyrs.

May God's peace and benediction be upon you.

Dialogue Head Notes 'Positive' Contacts With FIS

LD0502231594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Chairman of the National Dialogue Committee Dr. Youcef El Khatib has evinced clear optimism concerning the future of national dialogue in the era of the new authority. In a statement to the daily EL MOUDJAHID, Dr. El Khatib expects that the parties which boycotted the national conference will take part in the running of the transitional stage through participation in the Transitional National Council. He said: Such an expectation is possible and this is what made us leave the doors of the council open.

In another statement published by the daily EL WATAN, Dr. El Khatib affirmed that the national dialogue will continue under the leadership of the new authority in the country, and at the same time he confirmed reports that the national dialogue committee has held contacts with personalities representing the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. Mourad Medaoui gives us the details:

[Medaoui] The chairman of the National Dialogue Committee today announced that the task of the committee has ended and that the question of organizing dialogue is now a matter for the new authority. In a statement to the daily EL WATAN Dr. Youcef El Khatib said that the committee has indeed held contacts with personalities representing the dissolved FIS, and he pointed out that these personalities had secured the blessing of the FIS leaders in Blida prison. He stressed that these personalities were from inside the country and that there was no contact at all with leaders now abroad.

Dr. El Khatib considered these contacts as positive for two reasons: First, the fact that this tendency has accepted the principle of dialogue, and second the fact that this tendency has expressed its readiness to contribute to taking the country out of the crisis by helping to bring an end to bloodshed. Dr. El Khatib expects national dialogue to be easy now because of the existence of a platform that defines everything including relations between the various parties to the dialogue.

FLN Leader Explains Boycotting Dialogue

NC0402171494 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Feb 94 p 6

[Report from Algiers by Hisham Fahim]

[Text] Abdelhamid Mehri, the leader of Algeria's National Liberation Front [FLN], which has ruled the country for 30 years, has stated that his party will deal with the new regime in Algeria as an authority that lacks constitutional legitimacy. He added that his party will help this authority to emerge from this status and gain popular and constitutional legitimacy, provided there is goodwill and a true desire to restore normalcy in the country.

In remarks to AL-AHRAM, Mehri pointed out that the society's real problems cannot be solved through institutions that lack legitimacy and credibility. Asked if his party will accept any responsibilities or positions in the Transitional National Council (parliament) or in the new Algerian Government, Mehri said the FLN will accept no responsibility in running the country's affairs during the transitional period, adding that the period's political objectives are shrouded in ambiguity.

On the national dialogue conference, which the party has boycotted, and his assessment of it, Mehri said: It was supposed to conclude the dialogue that started over 10 months ago but the dialogue deviated from the natural course we expected it to take. He noted that for the FLN, the goal of the dialogue is to agree on comprehensive and political common grounds envisaging solutions for the various security, constitutional, institutional, economic, and social problems and to form a national coalition based on these common grounds. He added: But the dialogue turned into an attempt to recommend the successor to the Higher State Council and extend the transitional period for another three years with the same policy and views applied in the past two years.

He noted that this was why his party boycotted the conference, because its results could neither change the political, security, and economic realities in the country nor draft any clear-cut policy to confront these problems. He added that this does not mean that the party rejects dialogue, because dialogue is a necessary means to solve problems, but that what counts is the dialogue's nature.

Asked about possible developments, Mehri said that the situation in Algeria is very difficult, noting that emergence from the current crisis will require all the political and social forces to agree on how to end the violence. He added: It also requires taking the appropriate measures to restore full constitutional life based on the 1989 Constitution and to call on the people to contribute to running their own affairs through elected municipal, legislative, and presidential councils.

Political Parties Form New Body

LD0702230794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Three political formations, i.e. the National Party for Solidarity and Development [al-Hizb al-Watani li-Tadamun wa al- Tanmiyah], the Boumediennist Islamic National Front [al-Jabhah al—Wataniyah al-Islamiyah al-Boumediniyah] and the Front of the Generations of Independence [Jabhat-u Ajyal al-Istiqlal] announced, in a statement released today, the formation of the Constitutional National Movement [al-Harakah al-Wataniyah al-Dusturiyah].

According to the statement, the formation of the movement comes after the dissolution of the Constitutional National Rally which included 12 political formations.

Egypt

Mubarak, Klestil Note Peace Process, Other Topics

NC0802100194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has praised the Austrian role and support for the Middle East peace process, hoping it will continue until peace is established in the region.

At the beginning of his joint news conference with Austrian President Thomas Klestil following one hour of talks, Mubarak remarked that Egypt and Austria maintain close cooperation. He said Egypt looks forward to further cooperation between the two friendly states.

In his statement, President Mubarak welcomed the Austrian president, noting that the two countries have similar views on several issues. He referred to the role played by former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky in backing the Middle East peace efforts.

In his statement, the Austrian president thanked Mubarak for inviting him to visit Egypt. He affirmed that Austria plays an important role in pushing the Middle East peace process ahead by participating in the working groups stemming from the multilaterals.

President Klestil noted that Austria was among the first states to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He stressed that his country will continue to develop its relations with Egypt and Arab states within the framework of the policy established by Chancellor Kreisky and former President Kurt Waldheim.

He remarked that inviting Yasir 'Arafat to dine with them last night was a fine gesture by President Mubarak. He said he hoped he would have the chance to meet Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Cairo this evening.

President Mubarak was asked about the Bosnian crisis and recent developments there and whether the West has been hesitant about taking any measure. He said: All I can say is that events in the former Yugoslavia and the onslaught against the Bosnian people are primarily the responsibility of the European Community.

Mubarak added that he had expressed this view often. He emphasized the need for everyone to work collectively to stop violence against Muslims in this part of the world, because if the issue is left unresolved, it will be a time bomb threatening all Europe.

Touching on the same issue, the Austrian president said: We discussed the former Yugoslavia and expressed our fear that this problem might be an example that could be repeated elsewhere if the world accepts the imposition of military force.

Touching on violence in Egypt, President Mubarak remarked that extremism is not exclusive to Egypt, but exists worldwide. He added that the media in Europe and elsewhere are blowing the little events in Egypt out of proportion.

The president said these incidents are under control. We are not afraid; we face things very firmly because they are a handful of criminals with no link with Islam. There is no relation whatsoever between what is happening and Islam, he stated.

The president added: A look at the world map will show us that terrorism occurs every day and everywhere. But the media focus on events in Egypt as if such incidents are limited to Egypt, which is not true.

In the context, the Austrian president affirmed that terrorism exists everywhere. He referred to terrorist assaults in his country lately.

President Mubarak was asked about the progress achieved in the Middle East peace talks and whether a breakthrough is foreseeable, particularly between 'Arafat and Peres. He said: This is a 50-year old problem; it is not easy to solve overnight.

He hoped the ongoing talks between the Palestinian delegation led by 'Arafat and the Israeli delegation led by Peres would achieve results by the end of the week. He said negotiations are the only way to reach an agreement.

President Mubarak hopes 1994 will be the year the Middle East problem is solved.

Asked about developing bilateral ties with Egypt, particularly in the economic field, the Austrian president replied that his accompanying delegation includes representatives from and leaders of industrial firms, such as the president of Siemens Communications. He referred to the signing of an agreement today to complete the development, improvement, and modernization of the telephone communications network. He explained that today's agreement complements one signed during the time of late President Anwar al-Sadat and former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

Touching on tourism as a primary source of economic development, the Austrian president said his country will continue to encourage Austrian tourism in Egypt and will not restrict it. He remarked that the small, isolated incidents that occur once in a while will not affect this tourism.

The Austrian president noted that Austrian and Egyptian universities are cooperating in scientific research and student exchange. He also noted close cultural exchanges.

President Mubarak was asked about news agency reports of warnings by the so-called Islamic Group to commit terrorist acts against tourists and foreigners. He replied: We provide the necessary protection to everyone on Egyptian soil, Egyptians and foreigners alike.

The president said anyone could fax papers to a news agency, reference to the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah statement sent to AFP on 7 February, warning foreigners to leave Egypt, but he affirmed that the security bodies are taking all the necessary measures to confront this and taking precautions against every possibility.

Asked about developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Austrian president said he shares Egypt's view that the problem is "a big tragedy." He stressed that the world must face up to this problem or tragedy and refuse to partition a UN member state or wipe it off the world map by military force just to satisfy ethnic ambition. He remarked that Egypt and Austria hope this problem will be solved.

Islamic Militants Issue 'Final Warning' to Foreigners

NC0702172894 Paris AFP in English 1704 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, Feb. 7 (AFP)—The outlawed Moslem fundamentalist group Jama'ah al-Islamiyah on Monday issued a "final warning" for foreigners to leave Egypt.

"We have to warn them first so that our religion is innocent of the blood which will flow," the group said in a statement sent to AFP.

It said the killing of a police general in the southern town of Asyut Sunday was "the final warning to tourists and investors to leave the country."

Tourists and investors would be the main targets as a way of pressuring the "fascist" government of President Husni Mubarak, the group said in a second statement.

"The Jama'ah implores all embassies, consulates and businessmen to advise their citizens and kin, be they tourists, or Arab or Western investors, to leave the country immediately."

The group, which wants to turn Egypt into an Iranian-style Islamic republic, has frightened away many potential holidaymakers, costing the government billions of dollars in lost revenue.

"He who helps a regime which fights Islam, tortures its sons, abuses its women and hangs its young will suffer the same punishment as tyrants," it said.

Suspected Moslem militants on Sunday shot dead police general Omar Mustafa as he left his house in Asyut. He was the second police general to be killed in four days in the town, a hotbed of Islamic militancy.

On Wednesday, another officer was killed in similar circumstances.

Jama'ah al-Islamiyah warned foreign investors and tourists to leave the country last Wednesday hours after a police raid in Cairo in which seven militants were killed. The group warned it would retaliate against the "massacre" by police.

Sunday's attack in Asyut brought to 297 the number of people killed since the Moslem militants launched a violent campaign to overthrow the secular government of President Husni Mubarak in March 1992.

The fundamentalists have targeted policemen, senior government officials, foreign tourists and Coptic Christians. More than half of the 107 policemen were killed in Asyut.

Some Groups Condemn Warnings

JN0702190894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Dispatch by Ahmad Idris in Islamabad]

[Text] Severe differences have surfaced among Egyptian Islamic groups regarding the warnings issued to foreigners that they should leave the country. In a statement to our radio by telephone, the official in charge of the Information Bureau of the Conquest Vanguards Organization [tanzim tala'i al-fatah] condemned, on behalf of the organization, the warning issued three days ago by the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah to foreigners and its threats to strike at foreign investors and their projects in Egypt. He said:

[Begin recording] The Islamic masses and the whole nation know that Islam—as all scholars have always been unanimous—has forbidden any act that harms the Muslims. Thus, striking at the Egyptian economy and at legal investments will harm the Muslim masses there. [end recording]

The statement notes that this will isolate the Islamists and provide excuses to uproot them. The statement calls on the Egyptian leadership to apply the Islamic law and wipe out hotbeds of corruption to end armed confrontation and improve the situation.

UN 'Neutrality,' World View of Bosnia Examined

NC0802071294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR denounces the stance UN officials have assumed on the massacre committed lately by the Serbian slaughterers besieging Sarajevo, the massacre that killed 68 and wounded hundreds of Muslims.

In an editorial today, the paper says the stance adopted by the UN officials since the crisis began has been one designed to demonstrate neutrality and ignore responsibility to preserve peace and stability in member states.

The newspaper adds that the international organization has left the Bosnian people easy prey for extremist ethnic gangs, which get the most modern weapons anywhere, while it has barred the victimized people's access to weapons to defend themselves.

The paper describes the world's position on the massacre as "loose and feeble," although the world claims it has reached the peak of civilization.

Paper Notes Lack of Foreign Policy in Clinton Speech

NC0402120894 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Jan 94 p 5

[Column by Samyah al-Jundi: "The State of America"]

[Text] President Bill Clinton hardly mentioned foreign policy in his State of the Union address last weekend. He only noted the few achievements made in his first year in office, specifically the North America Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico, the GATT Agreement, and increasing pressure on Asian countries to open their markets and eliminate customs restrictions on their imports. Apart form this, the speech focused on domestic issues. There was disappointment for anyone who expected the U.S. President to say something about his latest tour of Europe and Russia, about his meeting with President al-Asad in Geneva, and whether the tour added or contributed to a clear U.S. view of the world, its problems, and how to address them.

The world's problems disappeared in Clinton's address despite the aggravation of problems in volatile areas such as Bosnia and Somalia and despite the doubts surrounding the reforms in Russia and the increasing differences between the United States and its Western allies over security and foreign policy. The drama of President Clinton failing repeatedly to appoint a new defense secretary to succeed Les Aspin added a new dimension to the general picture formed over a year of Democrats' rule of the extent of the confusion, division, and vacillation of actions, goals, and concepts. Does the United States deal with outstanding problems piecemeal? Is it trying to find a separate solution to every problem? Will it intervene militarily where things are hot and, if so, what is the extent and the limit of such intervention? What is the United Nations' role and what are its resources and ability to play such a role?

There are people who believe that President Clinton, after a full year in office, appears less enthusiastic about confronting his responsibilities as the first post-Cold War President of the United States. There are others who believe that the Democratic administration has not yet assimilated the changes on the world map and lacks a clear view of the shape of the world order in the long term and of the nature of the world map currently being shaped, a map in which states and ministates are bracing themselves to play an influential role in provoking wars and making peace. It is expected that the world will continue to see the United states vacillating on the road between the Balkans and Somalia and Russia and its former empires without a comprehensive framework for achieving peace based on a firm and consistent basis.

Sudan

Government Condemns Mortar Attack on Sarajevo Market

AB0802134894 Dakar PANA in English 1308 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Feb (SUNA/PANA)—Sudan has condemned Sunday's mortar attack on an outdoor market in Sarajevo in which 68 died and another 200 were injured. The Foreign Ministry denounced what it said Monday was the "negative stance of the UN Security Council vis-a-vis these inhuman killings." It called for an end to what it termed was a "human rights violation in Bosnia- Herzegovina". The government called for the lifting of the arms embargo imposed on Muslims in the besieged city. The United Nations have been unable to determine who fired the single mortar round Sunday.

Various Sectors React to Attack on Mosque

Interior Minister Comments

EA0702201594 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 7 Feb (SUNA)—The interior minister, Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, has denied that a foreign country was behind the incident at al-Thawrah mosque last Friday [4 February] in which 16 people were killed and 20 others wounded. He pointed out that investigations were continuing to find out more about this mystery, particularly as one of the criminals was still being treated and could not be questioned because of the current state of his health.

In a statement he delivered today at the Transitional National Assembly, the minister reviewed the incident at al-Thawrah mosque and the criminal acts carried out by an armed group of foreigners. He said that their moves began with an attack on a police station at Umm Baddah north where they claimed that they wanted to make a report but then seized weapons [passage omitted]

In response to questions and requests for clarifications, the minister said that notwithstanding the basic principles of general policy there must be measures for control and regulation of the procedures relating to arrivals in the country. He expressed the hope that further investigations would provide more information about this mysterious incident. He ruled out that the criminals were targeting Usamah Bin Ladin, proprietor of the Hijrah company working on the al-Tahaddi road.

Origins of 3 Gunmen Identified

PM0802125094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Feb 94 pp 1, 4

['Uthman Mirghani report: "Khartoum Rules Out Foreign Financing; Opposition Accuses Front and 'Afghans'"]

[Excerpts] London, Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sudanese Interior Minister Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn yesterday ruled out the existence of any foreign financing for the armed group that carried out the mosque massacre. Meanwhile Sudanese opposition sources have said that the gunmen, two of whom were killed and a third wounded, are "Arab Afghans" [Arabs who fought alongside Afghan mojahedin against Soviet forces]. [passage omitted]

Mubarak al-Mahdi, official in charge of external action in the opposition Ummah Party and former interior minister, has said that the mosque incident was carried out by a Sudanese group whose members' features indicate that they are either from western or southern Sudan, according to the testimonies of some eyewitnesses. They were wearing Sudanese costumes. Their faces were veiled. [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, Mubarak al-Mahdi said yesterday that the al-Riyadh district incident differs from the Shaykh Abu-Zayd Mosque incident. It can be said that the former (the al-Riyadh incident) is linked to a process of settling accounts and disputes within the "Arab Afghans" groups present in Sudan, which are armed.

He said that linking the al-Riyadh incident group and the al-Thawrah incident group "is an attempt to conceal the operation carried out by security services to terrorize citizens and oppositionists, especially as mosques have become platforms for the opposition."

He added that "the government is responsible for the two incidents, because it allowed these elements to enter Sudan. And its attempt to lay the responsibility on foreigners is unacceptable. It opened the door to foreigners, the Arab Afghans, and others, granting residence, citizenship, and the right to carry firearms." [passage omitted]

Opposition Blames Regime

NC0602165894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—The opposition Sudanese National Unionist Party strongly condemned Friday's massacre at the Ansar al-Sunnah Mosque and said that it was one of the ugliest crimes perpetrated against Muslims in Sudan.

In a statement it issued today, the party, which is closely monitoring the painful events in Sudan, stressed to the whole world that the Islamic Front's government is ultimately responsible for what happened in the mosque and that the government's claims that foreign elements were responsible for the incident do not absolve it from this responsibility.

The statement added: Even if this accusation is true, who opened the country for extremists, fanatics, and terrorists from every corner to come and spread corruption, anxiety, and threats in the country and the region?

The statement appealed to the international community and world conscience to exert pressure on the Khartoum regime to stop its evil actions against innocent citizens and called for an immediate and urgent investigation. It also demanded punishment for the responsible criminals and killers who can only be the extremist groups that have been massed in the country.

SPLA Faction Leader Comments on Various Topics

PM0802124094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Feb 94 p6

[Interview with Riak Machar, "leader of the Unified Sudanese People's Liberation Movement," by Nizar Daww-al-Na'im in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Daww-al-Na'im] Whom did you meet in Britain and what is the nature of your visit?

[Machar] I have come to London on a private visit for the eulogy of my wife Emma (a British citizen killed in a road accident in Nairobi). All my meetings were on the basis that this is a private visit. I have met with some lords and members of parliament. [passage omitted]

[Daww-al-Na'im] What foreign role do you seek for the settlement of the Sudanese problem?

[Machar] I believe that Britain can spearhead efforts in support of the current Kenyan-led initiative and if that initiative does not succeed then Britain and the European Union states could play a part and perhaps take the entire issue to the United Nations. [passage omitted]

[Daww-al-Na'im] What do you expect of the initiative of the IGADD (Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development) states led by Kenya? This is an initiative by heads of state who deal with the Sudanese Government as a government like theirs and deal with you as rebels. What are the chances of success for such an initiative?

[Machar] I expect a lot from these states because they are our neighbors and they sense and are affected by our problem whether through the exodus of refugees or instability on the borders. Some of these states, like Eritrea and Ethiopia, are on good terms with Khartoum. True, they treat us as a rebellion and treat Khartoum as a government but there is no other way. So long as Khartoum and the two wings of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] have accepted the initiative, the chances of making progress seem to be good. [passage omitted]

[Daww-al-Na'im] Will the two wings of the movement go to the negotiations as one delegation?

[Machar] We expect the two wings to go as one united delegation because we have a joint program for negotiation based on the movement's target which is self-determination for the people of southern Sudan and peripheral areas. [passage omitted]

[Daww-al-Na'im] The northern parties have warned the IGADD states that an agreement between just the government and the SPLM would not represent all the Sudanese people and would perhaps not be binding, and they renewed the call for a national constitutional conference embodying all Sudanese parties. What is your answer to that?

[Machar] My disagreement with the northern opposition is over the fact that they see a need for the downfall of the government first and then discussion of the problem. They do not take into consideration the suffering of the people of the south who have shouldered the burden and massive cost of the war including the famine, disease, and death. If we have to wait until the opposition assumes power, when would that be? They last time it took 16 years to topple (former President Ja'far) Numayri. [passage omitted]

The second observation is that the opposition grouping did rule Sudan at one point but the war continued. As regards their call for a constitutional conference, that is an old call. They did not implement it when they were in power, so why ask others to uphold it or wait for it? I do not trust them because when they are in the opposition they are friendly but when they are in power they resume the war and the policies which I fight. [passage omitted]

It should be clear that we do not wish to dominate power in the north. All we want is an independent state in the south because unity between the north and the south has failed and that is why secession is the solution. If we have to achieve that peacefully then let us do it through a referendum on self-determination. That does not necessarily mean that the two states would be enemies. We can look at the example set by Ethiopia and Eritrea.

[Daww-al-Na'im] Have you been invited to join the opposition Democratic National Grouping [DNG], and were Garang's relations with the DNG raised at your meeting?

[Machar] I did not discuss that matter with Garang but I believe that he is getting closer to my position without my discussing the matter with him. We are open to dealing with the DNG and I talked to their representatives in the past. We told them that they should not fear the idea of self-determination so long as it was going to be done peacefully. We tried to attend one of their meetings but they did not let us. I do not know what they are doing with Garang now because he now speaks the same language as we do, particularly since his call for self-determination. If, after this, he retains his membership of the DNG, why should we too not join? [passage omitted]

[Daww-al-Na'im] Two and a half years since the split, what have you achieved?

[Machar] We fulfilled the first objective which is to call for self-determination. It is now the main issue for the southerners. There is still some way to go to achieve democracy in the SPLM and guarantee human rights. Garang still has some prisoners. These were the three points over which we broke away. Yes, we agree on the aims of the movement but we may not agree on the way it is run or on the issue of safeguarding human rights. So we still have some way to go before the movement is reunited.

Tunisia

President Submits Nomination for Next Election

LD0702224694 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Speech to the nation by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on 7 February on the upcoming presidential elections, recorded; place not given]

[Excerpts] Citizens, this afternoon I submitted my nomination for the presidency for the next 5 years, in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and on the basis of my determination to continue serving the country, in order to develop the gains and accomplishments we have achieved, and to complete the plans and projects which we have started together, so that we are able to further consolidate the mainstays of the resurgence of the homeland and bolster the bases of its impregnability.

What has strengthened my determination and reaffirmed my will is that I regard the next phase as a very decisive one in the destiny of our dear homeland. Our country's final move toward advancement and progress depends on our success in that phase. Therefore, and due to the same reasons which motivated us on the dawn of 7 November [1987] to rise up to the sacred duty, I come forward again to undertake the trust and leadership of the country, appreciating the responsibility of the position, and that the responsibility comes before the honor of the position. [passage omitted]

Dear citizens, we developed the electoral code in such a say as to make it compatible with the development of society, as we pledged to do, and to guarantee the entrenchment of multiparty politics in parliament, so that political parties are represented in accordance with the extent of their popular base and their impact. Thus we have taken a further step, which will be added to previous steps, on the road of democracy and the freedom of choice.

The campaign for the parliamentary and presidential elections will begin on 6 March. On this occasion I would like to draw your attention to two matters which I believe are of the utmost importance. The first of these concerns the election campaign. It is the duty of everyone to adhere during this campaign to the rules of law and to avoid anything which may harm the reputation and honor of the candidates, and to shun all forms of slander and insinuations. The administration, which will be totally unbiased toward all political contestants and candidates, will be closely monitoring all excesses in

order to curb them at once so that the campaign can take place in a civilized manner, and so that the voting is held on 20 March in total impartiality and with absolute openness.

The second matter is about the need to put the country's reputation and interest above all considerations, because the elections, which are indeed extremely important since they constitute one aspect of a civilized life and are a feature of democratic civilian societies, are however only an access to what is more important and more lasting. This is namely strengthening the constitutional institutions and guaranteeing their safety and effectiveness, and guaranteeing the continuity of the state and its stability to enable it to devote itself to carrying out its duties in the service of the country, which is for all Tunisians, men and women, without any distinction or exception.

What makes these two matters more important is what I said at the beginning of my speech, that Tunisia is about to enter a decisive stage in its historical transformation. We are hoping to prepare it in the best possible way to enter the new century stronger and more powerful, with better consolidated achievements and a readiness to follow world development in a competent manner that will allow it to secure a place among the other countries of the world.

Let us all be committed to the slogan: We are all committed to Tunisia's glory.

May God's peace, prayers, and benediction be upon you.

Kuwait

Government Official, UN's Ekeus Meet, Discuss Iraq

LD0602194594 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, today met Rolf Ekeus, the chairman of the UN commission charged with the destruction of the Iraqi regime's weapons of mass destruction, who arrived in the country today. [passage omitted]

Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, the under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, who had welcomed Ekeus on his arrival, said that the prominent UN official's visit to Kuwait was important because it exemplified the UN Security Council's surveillance over the Baghdad regime's mass destruction weapons.

He added that Ekeus will brief Kuwaiti officials on the achievements of the UN commission with regard to destroying Iraqi mass destruction weapons and the long-term monitoring of the Iraqi regime's armament program.

For his part, Rolf Ekeus said that the commission did not feel satisfied up till now with the results of its work in Iraq, which meant that the UN economic sanctions imposed on the Baghdad regime, because of its aggression against the State of Kuwait, will remain in force.

Ekeus added that with regard to chemical weapons, the commission did not feel reassured because of the lack of complete information from Iraqi regime officials that would enable the commission to confirm that all these weapons had been destroyed or removed.

Ekeus stressed that there were still serious problems to be solved with the Iraqi regime officials at a meeting to be held in March. He said he believed that as long as the UN commission was able to work in Iraq, the Baghdad regime would not be able to implement any comprehensive armaments program. He emphasized that UN control was effective in this field and that the UN Security Council will rely on the reports of the commission when it came to make any decision related to considering the lifting or reduction of the sanctions imposed on the Iraqi regime.

Yemen

People's Congress Regrets Socialist Party 'Conditions'

JN0602120994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Statement by "an official source" at the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress, GPC; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On 4 February, the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] media cited a statement attributed to an official source at the YSP Central Committee. It was not only the contents of the statement that aroused our surprise and condemnation. What aroused our surprise and condemnation was the YSP's exploitation of the official media to transmit the statement issued by an official at the YSP Central Committee. This represented party monopoly over the second channel and Aden radio unprecedented since 22 May 1990.

While the General People's Congress Standing Committee regrets this act, it has no choice but to transmit this explanatory statement to our masses, asserting that it is forced to do this hoping that the YSP will stop this exploitation. Furthermore, the official spokesman's statement, which was embellished with flowery language concerning the document of pledge and accord, is strong evidence that the YSP views this document as a card for political propaganda and media deception. Although we, in the GPC, have always preferred that the practical implementation of the provisions of this historic document be the real test through which our people will be aware of the honest intentions, sound trends, and serious commitments, we have no choice but to explain the facts to our people without distortion, as follows:

1. The YSP statement notes that some representatives of the coalition to the dialogue expressed reservations about the document when it was signed so as to resort to them when they discuss the implementation. This shows a clear contradiction between their agreement on the document and their reservations about it.

In order to explain matters and to avoid veiled words—which will only cause fear and worry for citizens when they fail to understand or comprehend —we, in the GPC, do not hesitate to acquaint the citizens with what the Standing Committee spokesman really means. The citizens will then judge what was issued by the YSP and decide which side is telling the truth, adopts clearer stands, and is most concerned about this document which was welcomed by our masses because it is an impregnable shield that protects the unity, safeguards democracy, and strengthens popular participation:

On the evening of Monday, 17 January—that is, less than 24 hours before the signing of the document of pledge and accord—brother Prime Minister Haydar al-'Attas, representative of the YSP who was chairing the meetings of the political forces dialogue in Aden, dropped the following paragraph—which was registered as Number two in page 18 of the document, under the headline "Constitutional Amendments:"

"Unifying the political will and enabling the constitutional institutions to assume their tasks, exercise their powers, and implement what was agreed upon in the pledge document."

When the GPC representative in the subcommittee, which was reviewing the final draft of the document,

insisted on keeping this paragraph, the rest of the committee members supported him. Despite this, the YSP representative paid no attention to any opinion in the committee and insisted on canceling it. This prompted the GPC representative to underscore his reservation about this behavior in front of all the members of the dialogue committee. However, the YSP representative insisted on his stand on the pretext that this issue falls within the powers of the subcommittee.

In light of this behavior, and after signing the document, the GPC distributed the following memorandum among the members of the dialogue committee:

Brother members of the political forces' dialogue committee, greetings:

The GPC would like to draw your attention to the paragraph which had been listed on page 18 of the pledge and accord document until 17 January, when it was unilaterally dropped by one party to the committee.

That paragraph reads: Unifying the political will and enabling the constitutional institutions to assume their tasks, exercise their powers, and implement what was agreed upon in the pledge document.

That unilateral arbitrary measure proved beyond any doubt that as far this matter is concerned, all our efforts have been in vain.

[Signed] The GPC.

That memorandum was described by the YSP statement as a point of reservation designed to be used when implementation of the document is discussed. The GPC is certain that the masses of our people cannot consider the GPC's adherence to ending the crisis and all its manifestations as affirmed by its official memorandum to the members of the political forces' dialogue committee on 18 January an indication of ill intentions and noncommitment to implementation of the accord. However, it is regrettable that the fallacies that have been floated by the YSP after the signing of the accord document provide the most conspicuous evidence that the YSP views the document only as a means to continue the crisis in the face of the citizens' suffering in terms of a speedy deterioration of their living standards and the appalling price hikes. Citizens are also living in fear and anxiety over the destiny of their unity and the future of their homeland for no reason except that the YSP considers the demand for the unity of the political leadership, merging of the state institutions, and the Presidential Council and cabinet members' assumption of their executive tasks an inexcusable crime. What commitment does the YSP claim to the implementation of the pledge and accord document when its representatives in the political forces' dialogue and the state's executive authorities refuse to abide by the stipulations of the Constitution, contrary to the provisions of the pledge and accord document?

Following the same deceptive tone, the YSP Central Committee source claimed that the coalition representatives in the subcommittee and the military and security committee shirked their responsibilities toward the so-called discussion of the military and security guarantees. The source also claimed that the House of Representatives refrained from supporting the pledge and accord document. We at the GPC have irrefutable evidence which puts the blame on the YSP and proves the honesty and soundness of the GPC stand in the subcommittee and the security committee which was established to enforce the seventh article of the accord document. However, we will postpone exposing the falsehood of the YSP Central Committee spokesman's allegations in this regard and concerning the House of Representatives' decline to bless the document until the political forces' dialogue committee concludes its debates on the stands of the parties represented in the subcommittee. This is out of the GPC's concern that its uncovering of that deception and falsification might embarrass the parties to the political forces' dialogue before they are briefed on all that has been included in the minutes of the meetings of the subcommittee and the security committee. Afterward, we will be free to inform the people of all facts so that they would pass their judgment away from propaganda, allegations, or statements that have nothing to do with reality.

The GPC, which has expressed readiness to sign the agreement anywhere and anytime, regrets those new conditions and demands that have been set by the YSP, its partner to the coalition, outside the boundaries of the agreement. The GPC views those new conditions as a clear attempt to obstruct the signing of the agreement and to avoid commitment to implementing it. The consequences and effects of this regrettable stand will further complicate the crisis and expose the homeland to an unknown destiny.

Socialists Hail Amman Decision, Deny 'Conditions'

JN0702212994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Sanaa, 7 Feb (INA)—The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], led by Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, has welcomed the decision by the Yemeni parties dialogue committee that set the Jordanian capital, Amman, as the venue for signing the accord document in the near future.

In press statements tonight, Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and YSP assistant secretary general, said his party reaffirms its full support for all sincere efforts exerted, and resolutions taken, by the political parties dialogue committee to set a date for signing the document in the near future. Salim Salih Muhammad denied that his party has set any conditions or reservations that prevent the implementation of the committee's resolutions.

Socialists' Al-Bid Notes Political Crisis, Terrorism

NC0802082794 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 Feb 94 p 6

[Report on an interview with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice president and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, YSP, by Kamal Jaballah in Aden; date not given]

[Text] 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party and Yemen's Vice President, has welcomed decisive and responsible Egyptian mediation to resolve the current grinding political crisis in the country because of Egypt's immense sacrifices and assistance in support of the Yemeni revolution and its constant backing in Yemen's contemporary issues.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM held at his place of residence in "al-Husayn" in Aden, al-Bid stressed that Yemen cannot allow itself to be a base for domestic or foreign terrorism, especially to the extent that is harming the Egyptian people. He said that all the Arab countries will find themselves in a difficult situation if they do not stand united against terrorism.

Al-Bid added that the YSP leaderships went voluntarily to the capital, Sanaa, with the backing of all the electoral districts. He said that the party has made sacrifices that eliminated the discrepancy in development resulting from the past division and isolation, in order to create a state of law and order, a state that takes the united Yemeni homeland into the 21st century and not back to the 19th century, a state governed according to a new Yemeni social contract and not merely a signed document of pledge and agreement or "a forced return to the family house"—which is what would ensue once that document is bypassed and negated and the guarantees, executive programs and timetables for implementation are abandoned.

The YSP secretary general went on to say that the current crisis has posed a real test for his country of its ability to establish a state of institutions, modernity, and stability despite the complications of confrontation. He said that there has been no clear, unified vision of a unified state. He added that the anti-YSP forces have not given it enough time, and they have pushed it into an unenviable position through the assassination of leading figures and statesmen, and even the violation of houses.

Al-Bid said that he regards the "Pledge and Agreement Document" as a mere "way station" to put the course of unity in the unified state into the hands of the Yemeni people. He noted that the crisis is not a personal issue between him and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih but a crisis among all the ruling Yemeni organizations, bodies, and parties that are participating in the current dialogue.

He added that all the agreements signed during the past four years since unity was established have been set aside and in practice we have moved in the opposite direction. He stressed that the principles of democracy, coalition, and a state of law and order are enough to take care of the unity program and advance it.

Al-Bid began his interview with AL-AHRAM by saying:"It was a historic moment when we went to live in our capital Sanaa to establish our program, which the Yemeni national movement has long struggled to achieve. During our stay in Sanaa, we exerted all our efforts, but unfortunately we discovered that not all of us had a clear vision of the practical program. In other words, events showed that our vision of and belief in the program was not identical. Still, we do understand that a historic task such as this one is not easy to accomplish without suffering, sacrifices, and enough patience. The forces opposed to this program did not give us enough time to think calmly. They placed the YSP in an unenviable position through assassinations and by targeting leading figures and statesmen, such as the Chamber of Deputies speaker, the prime minister, the justice minister, and the YSP Political Bureau members. All of them were targeted directly and the last thing these forces did was to violate our houses.

The Yemeni vice president said: Yet we exerted every effort for the sake of unity and we do not regret what we have offered for our cause. We also tried to choose the path of democracy and proposed a coalition to sponsor the unity plan, because we saw various conflicting trends in the Arab world. We thought perhaps this initiative would act as a way out and confront everyone with their responsibilities for building a homeland at this difficult juncture.

Al-Bid affirmed that all the signed agreements have been put aside and that work was being conducted according to the others' convictions, making no effort to draw up a democratic, unionist plan for Yemen.

He explained: We have now reached an understanding within the framework of the Pledge and Agreement Document, which is a document of national consensus that we subscribed to and had our own view on. We agreed that it should form the common ground for us to rectify the path of unity. Anyone who wants unity has to defend under appropriate conditions—a state of unity, for which I was most enthusiastic. After the 22 May "joy" we had in Yemen, which left behind overwhelming passions, I consider that the 18 January "joy" brings national awareness. Hence, let us pause at this juncture and proceed together to rectify the course of unity guided by the hands of the Yemeni people. I believe that a genuine state of unity that entails the requirements for construction and the establishment of this democratic plan is primarily a "compound" state. The gist of the document leads to this goal, but we the Arabs regrettably always work according to passions, not reason. If we relied on reason we would have been wiser.

The secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party went on: Nearly four years have passed since unity was established but the question remains: What is the situation now in Yemen?

He replied: They say that the YSP is pursuing separation. When we went to Sanaa with our sons we were treated like immigrants. What did we go for and who dictated that we should go there? We went voluntarily and won the support of all electoral constituencies in the southern and eastern governorates and our citizens. This party offered what it should offer for unity, carried the banner of democracy and coalition, demanded a country of law and order, and offered sacrifices on behalf of the entire nation—150 cadres and leaders from our membership. We did not stop where the gangs and those behind them wanted.

He emphasized: The Socialist Party thinks of the future; it is not limited to just one individual. When we embarked on unity, we realized that we were chasing a dream. Some of us were overwhelmed by the sense of the saying "Moving from one framework to another provides an opportunity." Despite this, we all felt that we were the partisans of a cause and backers of a unionist, democratic plan, considering the plan's regulatory mechanism on the one hand and the actual situation in Yemen on the other.

Al-Bid pointed out that the YSP had presented 18 points, which were supported by the Yemeni masses. "We conceded these points in return for the "Pledge and Agreement Document," the document on national consensus. Now, we want to implement this document."

He added: "The document is not ideal, but neither is it impossible, as some believe. However, it contains our minimum goals; and we need to approach it responsibly, not by merely signing it and 'returning to the house of obedience' [legal term meaning for a court to order a reluctant wife to live with her husband]. Our relationship with the leadership in Yemen does not mean that we should return to the house of obedience. We are looking to establish a new social contract, which was delineated in the pledge and agreement document. We now have to proceed from another starting point. Our Yemeni character will enable the leadership to overcome all their differences."

The YSP secretary general affirmed that individual security cannot be separated from public security in the state. Security cannot be restricted to the leaders without thinking about the security of the state as a whole. "The document affirms the importance of establishing a state of law and order, a state that can rectify the differences in progress between the two parts of Yemen and the isolation that existed in the past, a state that will enter the 21st century without returning to the 19th century. When we signed the unity paper, I did not have in mind returning Yemen to the 19th century."

Al-Bid then responded to reports about tampering with the budget for the oil project at Hadramawt, the objective of which is said to be to divert funds to buy weapons and ammunition in preparation for a military confrontation between the two sides. He said: "This agreement must be approved by Parliament and the Council of Ministers. It is signed by foreign companies. The things that are rumored and have been published are impossible. How can funds be withdrawn or added in an agreement made by the YSP? Those who spread these rumors should have provided their evidence. Otherwise, these accusations can be categorized as cheap and absurd, especially since they deal with money. Shame on them."

Answering a question on the degree of understanding between the Chairman of the Presidential Council 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his deputy, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, and whether their relationship has reached a dead end, al-Bid said: "First, the issue is not personal. Reports always claim that the conflict is between the president and his deputy. True, we are responsible for leading this country, but we do so through organizations, parties, and councils. The issue is now out of the hands of the coalition parties and in the hands of the sides now taking part in the national dialogue. Any honest person will take a positive stand on this document by providing guarantees and starting to implement the measures in the relevant documents within a definite time frame."

He affirmed that the Committee for Dialogue Among the Yemeni Political Forces is entrusted with taking a decisive stand on the whole subject, saying: We support any decision they reach regarding this crisis.

I believe that this is a real test of our belief in our cause, the cause of building a unified and democratic Yemeni homeland. There is widespread support for this cause; this proves that Yemenis are capable of resolving their differences on the basis of the pledge and agreement document according to the democratic process. There is broad conviction in all Yemen that Yemenis want a life of recognized establishments, civilian normality, and stability for themselves and those around them. Therefore we will not be influenced by all the elements who want to push Yemen to a clash.

Al-Bid added: "The crisis has shown that the Yemenis reject terrorism and violence, for these things conflict with the democratic process. It also showed their desire for social justice and for a homeland united in a state that is "fitted together" [murakkabah] and can resolve the differences in development, competition, opinion and counter-opinion, and diversity."

He explained: "If 22 May 1990 was Declaration of Unity Day, then 18 January is the day of rectifying the unity process. Rectification always faces difficulties, especially as it normally conflicts with habitual practices. The force of habit deprives people of their will; as the Yemeni proverb says, "Stopping a habit causes hostility."

Despite this, the crisis is not over. Our worst fear is that the document will just be used to bypass the crisis and to deprive it of any substance. The document therefore needs an executive program and timetable with priorities. One of the priorities is to arrest the outlaws who carried out the bombings and assassinations.

Al-Bid went on to say: "We do not want Yemen to be a base for terrorism, either in the Arab homeland or worldwide, because it is unthinkable for Yemen to follow a democratic course and be a base for terrorism. But it is worth recalling that many Arabs became involved in Afghanistan with the support of foreign international powers; but when these Afghan Arabs returned to their Arab lands and peoples that enjoyed security and safety, such as Egypt, Algeria, and Yemen, they began to suffer from this tribulation [terrorism]. All these are signs of an alternative plan for ruling. It is a terrorist plan that opposes development and is threatening the Arab nation. We believe that the Yemeni unity program is the nucleus of a pan-Arab, democratic, and unionist plan and we are enthusiastic about it. There is no harm in continuing with it despite the difficulties in implementing it, but we should be wise and deal with the reality consciously."

Regarding the extent of foreign intervention to escalate the Yemeni crisis, al-Bid said: "We have a crisis, but it is under discussion and the subject of a national dialogue. We should not blame it on others. The Arabs have this habit, in the past and now, of blaming foreign interference for their domestic crises in order to end them. If we look at the recent past to find those who had foreign ties, the question then becomes: Who are they? Who are these, whom we have reared and fed? Therefore, there is no need to open these files now. We are facing rulers whose mentalities are not equal to the cause. Yet this could help in rectifying the unity process."

He noted that the majority of regimes in the Arab countries are not thinking about development and stability as much as they are thinking about holding on to power. We believe that democracy is the right way to achieve stability and development.

The Arab countries will find themselves in a difficult situation if they do not stand against the creeping terrorist tide.

Ekeus 'Not Fully Satisfied' on Chemical Weapons

NC0702205794 Paris AFP in English 1957 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Kuwait City, Feb 7 (AFP)—UN disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus said here Monday [7 February] he was not convinced that Iraq had provided full details about its chemical weapons.

"We feel quite satisfied, but not fully satisfied," the head of the UN Special Commission on disarming Iraq (UNSCOM) told reporters, following his four-day mission to Baghdad.

"In the chemical area we are not satisfied that Iraq has given us full, detailed information necessary for us to be definite that all these weapons have been taken away," Ekeus said.

The Swedish UN official on Sunday ended a visit to Iraq saying Baghdad and the United Nations still disagreed over certain aspects of the long-term monitoring of Iraq's weapons programmes, despite their determination to implement the surveillance measures quickly.

Ekeus said Monday he was confident that all Iraq's long-range missiles had been destroyed, along with the production facilities.

"We have the satisfactory feeling that most of the Iraqi capabilities have now been destroyed and eliminated," Ekeus said, referring to the dismantling of Iraqi weapons programmes in line with the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire conditions.

In a joint statement issued in Baghdad Sunday, Ekeus and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said both sides "expressed their readiness to expedite the process of establishing ongoing monitoring and verification in a spirit of goodwill."

They said their aim was to enable the International Atomic Energy Agency to report to the UN Security Council "that, in their view, Iraq had taken all the actions called for by paragraph 22 of Resolution 687."

The clause provides for the lifting of the international oil embargo against Iraq once Baghdad has honoured UN resolutions calling for the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

UN sanctions, including an oil embargo, were imposed four days after Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990.

Ekeus was due to leave Kuwait for New York Monday, Kuwaiti officials said.

Editorial Urges Security Council To Lift Embargo

JN0502195994 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 2 Feb 94 p 1

[Editorial: "The Security Council and Confidence Building: What Is the Required Position?"]

[Text] Everyone is now aware that Iraq has fulfilled all of its obligations toward Section C of Resolution 687 and Resolution 715 concerning monitoring, and that Iraq has confirmed its commitment through the various measures it has taken to implement these two resolutions. This fact has been noted by various international quarters. The UN Special Commission has also confirmed that Iraq has respected its commitments and obligations despite the injustice done to it.

This reminds us once again of the fact that reciprocal obligations of both Iraq and the UN Security Council, in accordance with the Council's own resolutions, require an immediate move to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 which stipulates that the oil embargo should be lifted without any delay to enable Iraq to secure its immediate food and medical needs.

Within the contexts of justice and logic, any fair observer must view with surprise any attempt to bypass this fact and delay the lifting of the embargo, or any attempt to use the suffering of the Iraqi people as a card for extortion and cheap bargaining to achieve certain political objectives that are rejected in part and parcel and infringe on the Iraqis' right to possess their free will.

To be clearer, we refer to statements made by some people on "confidence building" and the suspect call for delaying a resolution to end the embargo until the conditions for that "building" are established. These statements are part of the maneuvers mastered by the United States, which seeks to involve others in these maneuvers, prevent them from seeing what is right, and place them in the whirlpool of the U.S. hostile objectives that run contrary to legitimacy and the principles of right and justice.

Confidence building between Iraq, the Security Council, and the Special Commission with a view to ending the injustice and the wrongdoing done to the Iraqi people is an immediate, important, and a required thing to do. It can be achieved through understanding and the fair objective perspective that is free from ulterior motives and evil purposes. It requires all the parties concerned to recognize that Iraq has done all it can to sincerely fulfill its obligations and commitments.

On the other hand, "confidence building" cannot be done through maneuvers; the attempt to dismiss facts; ignoring the suffering of the Iraqi children, women, and old people; or drifting behind the games of this or that international party that agreed to be a false witness in the greatest moral and human scandal seen by the world in the late 20th century.

We know very well that the United States and its lackeys do not wish the truth to emerge or the embargo to end. However, we also know that the Security Council issued a specific resolution that included reciprocal obligations, which Iraq has fulfilled. The Security Council should now fulfill its own obligations and lift the embargo and put an end to this flagrant violation of everything legitimate, humane, and just.

Clinton's 'Heretical Approach' Toward 'Siege' Noted

JN0502193694 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 2 Feb 94 p 1

[Article by Hani Wahib: "How Civilized Is Hesitant Clinton?"]

[Text] At a time when statements by good people around the world call for lifting the unjust siege imposed against Iraq, and when there was a positive change in the positions of the majority of Security Council permanent members toward lifting the siege, hesitant Clinton, in his report to the Congress, followed a heretical approach in what he said about the long time needed to be sure of the soundness of future monitoring implementation. He also lied about what he called Iraq's commitment to democracy and respect for human rights, and he cawed like a crow about civility. The Arab saying that something is so sad that it is funny is true because hesitant Clinton continues to slaughter people—elderly, women, and children—in Somalia while he wails about human rights and announces a withdrawal from Somalia. He wails about civility while it was he who hit the houses of seemingly safe people in Baghdad with missiles, and killed men, children, and women from 26-27 June 1993 when there was no military confrontation between Iraq and the U.S.

When hesitant Clinton tries in vain to prolong the unjust siege on Iraq through empty logic and baseless pretexts, he demonstrates his bankruptcy and his deviation from the will of the international community and law. Iraq has implemented Resolution 715 on future monitoring and Part C of Resolution 687. This requires the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687—the immediate lifting the oil embargo on Iraq and the total lifting of the siege. There is nothing in the Security Council that refers to the "trial period." Hesitant Clinton's talk about democracy and human rights is mere nonsense. Statements by Special Commission Chairman Ekeus, and others, who are not Iraqis, refer to Iraq's legal right to have the siege lifted.

Iraq's steadfastness, the determination of its leader Saddam Husayn, and our efforts to bolster the jihad and construction march, are the means to lift the siege against hesitant Clinton's will and despite the falsity of his talk.

Symposium Participants Urge Action To End Sanctions

JN0702191494 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 7, INA—Arab and foreign experts taking part in the International Symposium on War Crimes and Violations of Human Rights which is being held here called for a joint action to lift the trade sanctions on Iraq.

They called for setting up committees consisting of Iraqis and chaired by Europeans in order to explain the effects of trade sanctions on the Iraqi people.

They also called for establishing Arab and Islamic organisations that would defend human rights of Arabs and Muslims.

The Sunday [6 February] morning session was chaired by Amin Shuqayr from Jordan. The main speaker of the session was Dr. Safiyah Safwat, member of the Permanent Bureau of the Union of Arab Jurists.

Dr. Safwat delivered a paper entitled "The Effect of Sanctions (on Iraq), an Eyewitness Reports.".

She said that for more than three years Iraq has been subjected to severe sanctions and blockade and the Iraqi people have faced the most intensive and vicious air war in which hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed and the country's infrastructure destroyed.

The paper said numerous reports of international missions have indicated the size of destruction caused to Iraq as a result of the war and the imposition of economic blockade. Among these reports are Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan's report in July 1991, the report by the International Committee of the Red Cross in October 1991, the report of the Harvard International Team in May 1991, and the report by the General Federation of Iraqi Women in November 1992, Dr. Safwat said.

On the child status, she said for a period of ten months only, January to October 1991, 1,977 Iraqi children under the age of five died from causes related to the effects of the economic embargo. "For the same period in 1992, the total number of deaths among such children was 3,821, an increase of 93 per cent over the 1991 total," Dr. Safwat added in her paper.

The paper said the embargo has, moreover, deprived Iraqi pupils and students of their learning and educational needs.

"There are acute shortages of stationery, educational and laboratory equipment as there are shortages of technical and sports materials," it said.

Dr. Safwat said the economic embargo against Iraq has also severely affected social services as the deterioration of the economy has led to cuts in crucial services such as children nurseries and reformatories, and homes for the disabled.

The paper said because of the continuation of trade sanctions on Iraq, prices of basic goods have exceeded the economic capabilities of the majority of the Iraqi families.

Another speaker of Sunday's morning session was Mr. Ahmad Nasir from the Sudan.

He said that the international and humanitarian organisations in the West are known of their achievements for the Western people. He wondered why Arabs and Muslims do not set up such organisations that would defend their rights.

Shaykh Muhammad Bu Stah from Libya said the Arabs need a real action towards the sanctions against Iraq and Libya.

He lauded the Libyan Human Rights Committee and its contribution on both Arab and international levels.

Among the participants of the International Symposium on War Crimes and Violations of Human Rights is former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. Mr. Clark is one of those international dignitaries who condemned the U.S. and other countries which took part in the aggression against Iraq. Mr. Clark is chairing an international war crimes tribunal.

Mr. Clark told THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER that the tribunal held hearings in 35 cities in the U.S. and in more than 20 countries.

He said the tribunal, for example, held hearings in four cities in Turkey and another four in Britain. "The final tribunal was held in the city of the United Nations, New York, because the U.S. was the aggressor," he said.

Mr. Clark said the tribunal accused former President George Bush and other U.S. officials of 19 charges. In some countries the court where the hearings were held added charges against the country where the court was held. It happened in the UK, Canada, Italy and Japan," Clark said.

The court has also charges against the Japanese Government, because it permitted us to maintain naval vessels which were used in the Gulf war, he said, adding that there was a big protest in Japan where "I saw a hundred boats with people protesting the arrival of U.S. vessels."

The former U.S. attorney general said the most important crime now is the embargo.

"It is judged as a continuing crime against the U.S. [as received]. The embargo punishes the whole people of Iraq," he said, adding that it kills infants, the sick, and elderly people.

Mr. Clark said that the most urgent humanitarian issue on our planet is to lift the sanctions against the Iraqi people.

He said there are signs of lifting these sanctions. "Three permanent members of the Security Council stating that they are not feeling good about the sanctions, they have not voted against them yet but I can say they feel badly of the sanctions. There is uneasiness and you see it coming up more and more in the press elsewhere," Mr. Clark concluded.

U.S. Reaction to Continuing Arab Boycott Viewed

JN0702150594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Jan 94 p 3

[Article by Hasan al-Kashif; from the "Attention" column: "Decisions of the U.S. Era"]

[Text] The U.S. President and his secretary of state see no reason to continue the Arab boycott of "Israel," saying "it no longer belongs to this age." And since Senator Brown cannot comprehend continuing that blockade, he submitted a bill to the U.S. Senate imposing sanctions on any Arab government abiding by resolutions that boycott U.S. firms dealing with "Israel". The Brown bill was immediately approved by a majority of 93 votes. Nobody in the U.S. Senate supported the Arabs, although the U.S. decision will first affect pro-U.S. Arabs, because it "bans the sale of U.S. arms to Arabs and withholds all types of U.S. services and military consultations to any state not abiding by the U.S. decision."

Of course, pro-U.S. Arabs will not be disappointed by their Washington master. In fact, they will use the Congressional decision as an excuse to get rid of the boycott resolutions to which they are committed by Arab unanimity.

We do not expect pro-U.S. Arabs to resist, reject, or speak out against the decision, because those following the course of recognizing "Israel" have already begun dealing with it on political and security levels, and will soon begin dealing with it on the economic level, through economic projects in Gaza and Jericho, or through the Middle East market now being established via relations and agreements that cover the entire Arab homeland and extend to all its capitals.

Since Washington is committed to the peace it is formulating and leading in the Middle East, it considers the Arab boycott to be harmful to the peace efforts. It does not understand how the pro- U.S. Arab camp can recognize "Israel," guarantee its secure borders and establish normal relations with it, without cancelling the boycott resolutions and measures with the open decision that Washington has asked of the Arab League, now that the United States has guaranteed the required majority in that organization.

Washington is now working for Tel Aviv's economic superiority, after it has guaranteed its military superiority. With this superiority, Washington asks its Arab camp to guarantee Tel Aviv's economic and military hegemony without condition or restriction. A powerful Israel guarantees U.S. interests in the region and guarantees the continued existence of the rulers—presidents of kings—that Washington appoints over the region.

Article Ridicules 'Lame' Arab Lobby in U.S.

JN0702152494 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Jan 94 p 3

[Article by Husayn al-Shahrabli: "Lobby and Lobby"]

[Text] As often reported in the Arab press, some people have swallowed the bait and have begun inching closer to Washington in the hope of forming an Arab lobby similar to the Zionist one. But little did they know that the bait is an American hamburger on an Israeli hook.

This could not have been due to goodwill or naivete, because some of them have swallowed the bait despite their knowledge of the hook and its origin. There are also those who, from the time of their grandfathers, have yielded to the humiliation of slavery and have actually vied with one another in order to win the favor of the American master.

But those rushing to the White House have been truly deluded, because the American master is no longer his own master. He has lost control of his affairs to the Zionist lobby and placed all his eggs in the Israeli basket.

Still, the devotees of the United States have formed an Arab lobby that is not for, but against, the Arabs and their nation.

Let us now seriously compare the endeavors of the new lobby with those of the established Zionist lobby.

The Arab lobby, if it is correct to call it by such a name, is a generous lobby. For we have not heard of a single occasion on which it has secured anything. On the contrary, it has conceded everything with contentment and satisfaction. And as the saying goes: Contentment is an inexhaustible treasure.

On the other hand, the Zionist lobby has secured everything without becoming content or satisfied.

The Arab lobby specializes in increasing pressure, cooling down hot spots, and loosening knots in order to clear the way for the Americans.

Conversely, the Zionist lobby specializes in creating those hot spots for the Americans, both president and officials, by all possible means. The Zionist lobby controls the most crucial areas of American society—power, money, and the media—and holds the keys to every door. Thus, most of the decisions made by the U.S. Administration come in attractive Zionist dress.

The Arab lobby makes blood sacrifices for the Americans, even if it is the blood of kinsmen and brethren, while the Zionist lobby is among the leading guests to waste more Arab blood.

Let us now compare the most significant achievements made by the Zionist lobby for Israel with those of the Arab lobby for its nation.

The former has made the mighty United States a secretary serving in the office of the Zionist prime minister, and has subjected U.S. will to the decisions of the Knesset.

On the other hand, the latter has reduced Arab states, governments, and officials to employees in a small section of the U.S. State Department, begging for visas and identity cards from the Immigration and Naturalization Service. At the same time, it has subjected Arab countries' will to the future and comfort of the U.S. President, whether Republican or Democrat.

We all know that the Zionist lobby controls the United Nations and its Security Council resolutions.

As for the miserable Arab lobby, the lame lobby, it is no more than a folkloric group fit to decorate and add color to conference tables (with their head gear, beards, and mustaches) or become another number in a list of signatories.

The Arab lobby is destroying the Arab structure and dwarfing the nation, from the ocean to the Gulf, and burning its history.

It is a stupid lobby, which has been charmed by blond America, and it has disowned its mother, its father, and its homeland for the sake of its love—because America is its only love.

It is a short-sighted lobby, which does not view its national wealth as lawful unless it is first blessed by the U.S. treasury. It also does not consider its nation's problems fully diagnosed unless they have been seen through the U.S. microscope. The United States knows everything about the nation.

It is a very tiny lobby that derives strength from the Zionist lobby and looks taller, stronger, and more treacherous in the shadow of that lobby.

The Arab lobby continues to claim that it works for the nation and its interests. This is why it has offered its territory as a bridge for the dirty infidel masters to come occupy the homes of the poor faithful, who have performed absolution for prayer.

An Arab lobby, a Zionist lobby, a Zionist Arab lobby.

Bless you, O Iraq, for you have been, and you will continue to be, the nation's pivot, pure heart, and the banner under which the nation seeks cover from the disgrace of the so-called Arabs.

Bless you, for they have formed a lobby against you.

But you are stronger and more lasting, because you seek the help of God. They heard you praying: O God, O Helper.

Iran's Interference in Arab Affairs Denounced

JN0602164094 Baghdad INA in English 1345 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 6 (INA)—AL-THAWRAH daily of Iraq wondered about how long would the Iranian regime continue to play the role of a guardian on Arab and Islamic affairs.

The paper, mouthpiece of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, said in an article today that the regime, which faced an irritating armed resistance in many of its major cities, districts and villages was incapable of playing any positive role in the region.

AL-THAWRAH added that instead of solving its internal problems, rising from its messed up policies and its failure to find suitable solutions for obstacles facing its people, the Iranian regime intervened in the internal affairs of Arabs and Muslims despite the harsh lesson it learned from its war with Iraq.

The paper commented that the Iranian regime received a similar blow when it attempted to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs during the chapter of sabotage and hooliganism following the 30-state aggression on Iraq.

The paper cautioned Arabs and Muslims against Iranian attempts to intervene in their internal affairs through spreading chaos and instigating trouble under false slogans similar to what has been going on in Jordan and Algeria.

Saddam Receives Cable From Islamic Jihad Amir

JN0802091294 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 1 Feb 94 p 2

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, amir of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqadis on the third anniversary of the U.S.-Zionist military aggression against Iraq.

The cable says: The Jihad Movement has devoted its utmost efforts, both in terms of funds and personal sacrifice, for the sake of raising the flag of God is great. You were the warrior who carried that flag to confront the gathering of infidels, who advanced from various parts of the world in order to extinguish the torch of freedom burning on the Land of the Two Rivers and to subjugate Iraq just as they have subjugated other Arab and Muslim rulers, who now rush to the Black House in Washington in order to request mercy and pardon and to receive the infidels' instructions to strike at our peoples and to mortage their honour and dignity in return for a cheap livelihood and the existence of a feeble, powerless rule.

The cable adds: The Mother of Battles was like the Mu'tah battle in which the Muslims faced the Romans in Greater Syria [Bilad al-Sham] under the command of Zayd Bin-Harithah, Ja'far Bin-Abi-Talib, and 'Abdallah Bin-Rawahah, may God rest their souls in peace. Later, the command was passed to Khalid Bin-al-Walid, may God rest his soul in peace, who maneuvered and then withdrew. The Mother of Battles was also like the battle of the Prophet's grandson, al- Husayn, peace be upon him, who faced injustice without surrendering. Al-Husayn preferred to meet his God and enter paradise than live a luxurious life and remain silent toward injustice and the unjust ones. There was no parity in arms and men. There was only dependence on God and whatever means of confrontation were available.

There can be no comparison between spiritual and material values. Spiritual values are linked to God, and fate is ordained in God's Holy Book and in the traditions of His prophet. So those who faced the world with its Persian and Roman empires with the spirit of Jihad faced death for the sake of God. They were not afraid of the enemy's superior power.

The nation looks up at you while you still stand lofty, telling free men that Palestine is still Arab. You are the only one among the rulers still considering Palestine Arab. The rulers calmed down and were therefore humbled. They removed Palestine from the nation's map and geography. Damn them. The nation still has men who can achieve glories. The United States will vanish and God's order will prevail, whether the infidels like it or not.

The cable continues: During the immortal Mother of Battles we smelt the fragrance of history, recalling Muslim victories in Palestine and visualizing the armies of Khalid-Bin-al-Walid crossing the Syrian Desert to al-Yarmuk on the approaches of Palestine.

May God grant victory to Iraq. May God make the Holy Koran your guardian. May God make you the rightly guided leader. May the traditions of God's prophet be your torch with which to extinguish the fire of hatred and Mazdaism. Please, your excellency, accept from the Palestinian people's mujahidin their blessings and prayers for your steadfastness in the face of the enemies. Victory will come soon after the removal of the blockade and its unjust tools. God is all-powerful.

Vice President Receives Jordanian Delegation

JN0702211794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has said that the rancorous enemies who are wagering on a war of attrition by perpetuating the blockade will lose their wager, just as they lost their wager on the war they perpetuated between Iraq and Iran for eight years. The Iraqis under leader President Saddam Husayn crowned this war with a great victory and emerged from it stronger and more capable, he added.

During a meeting today with a delegation from the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party, led by Samir Habashinah, the party's deputy secretary general and member of the Jordanian House of Representatives, Ramadan said that the Iraqis will foil the war of blockade and will emerge stronger. He pointed to what the Iraqis have achieved in terms of marvelous and great victories in their counterattack, represented by reconstructing what the aggressors demolished and by foiling the aggressors' schemes designed to deprive Iraq of both its livelihood and its elements of strength, progress, and reconstruction.

Habashinah saluted the heroic stand of President Saddam Husayn and the great Iraqi people. He also lauded their confrontation of the largest aggression against the Arab nation.

Habashinah stressed that the Iraqis' firmness and adherence to their principles and sovereignty are additional strength for all the Arabs, who are struggling for their nation and its sovereignty and progress.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Foreign Relations Office of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference.

Car Explosion Kills 3 Security Officials

JN0702201994 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] An exclusive source has reported that a 1993 jumbo [preceding word in English] car from the Samarra' Security Department exploded at 1500 on 15 January 1994 over the Samarra' Bridge in the city of Samarra'. Three members of the regime security forces were killed in the explosion: the director of the Tikrit Security Department, the director of the Bayji Security Department, and the chief of the Samarra' security group who was called 'Isam.

Government Forces Reportedly Shell Marshlands

NC0702191894 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] The regime has continued its brutal oppressive acts against the Iraqi people, seeking to destroy the marshlands in southern Iraq. The regime's artillery shelled the regions of (Bahilah) Nahr Salih, Abu-Saddah, (Muray'an) (al-Mifrakh), and al-Waki in al-Madinah District in al-Basrah Governorate.

Our sources in southern Iraq said the shelling was so intense that scores of houses were destroyed and heavy losses inflicted on citizens' property. According to the latest information available to our sources, a 15-year old girl was martyred in the shelling, which is still continuing.

T-72 Tanks Reportedly Deployed in Central Iraq

NC0702190894 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Our sources in Iraq have monitored extensive movements for tyrant Saddam's forces on the road linking the Governorates of al-Najaf and Karbala' in central Iraq. Our sources said in an urgent dispatch received today that dozens of armored military units and tank battalions were seen taking up positions along the road. Most of the tanks deployed by the regime, our sources added, are sophisticated Russian-made T-72's used by the Republican Guards.

Our sources cited well-informed sources that the deployment came after antiregime popular moves in central Iraq, especially in the Governorates of Karbala', al-Najaf, and al-Hillah. The sources said the command of the deployed force was instructed to hold military exercises and training for occupying imaginary targets inside cities.

It should be noted that the Governorates of al-Najaf and Karbala' were in the past few weeks the scene of heroic operations carried out by the Islamic resistance forces. The regime's centers, headquarters, and its security and party services were attacked, and leaflets urging citizens to rebel against and overthrow tyrant Saddam's regime were distributed.

Clashes With Money Changers Reported

NC0702190794 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] More than 20 people were killed and scores others wounded in violent clashes between groups of money changers and special forces affiliated with tyrant Saddam's son 'Udayy in the money changers' market near Baghdad International Fair in al-Mansur suburb of Baghdad. This was reported by arrivals from Baghdad in Iraqi Kurdistan in the past two days. They said the clashes took place when the money changers refused to observe the regime's recent instructions banning individuals from dealing in currency in the Baghdad money market and restricting this activity to a group of brokers working directly on behalf of 'Udayy.

Paper Reports Tribal Loyalties to Saddam

JN0702134994

[Editorial Report] Baghdad BABIL in Arabic on 30 January publishes on page two a 300-word unattributed report entitled "The Sons of Our People Renew the Pledge of Loyalty to the Leader." In this report the paper says that at a public rally in Khanaqin District, Diyala Governorate, al-Hurub tribesmen renewed their allegiance to President Saddam Husayn and expressed their readiness "to take up arms" and make sacrifices in defense of national unity. The paper adds that similar pledges of loyalty were made at local rallies by: the families of martyrs in Karbala'; the al-'Asakirah, Al Shmays, and Al Shadur tribes in the Suq al-Shuyukh District, Dhi Qar Governorate; the masses in Hit District, al-Anbar Governorate; women masses in Dhi Qar Governorate; the masses in Qal'at Salih District, Maysan Governorate; the masses in Bayji District, Salah al-Din Governorate; the tribes in al-'Abbasiyah Subdistrict, al-Najaf Governorate; and the peasant masses in al-Qadisiyah Governorate.

Leaders React to Hizballah Attack on IDF Troops

Rabin Comments on Syrian Role

TA0802113394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] This morning, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was the guest of a conference of educators entitled "Education Toward Peace," held in Jerusalem. Taking the opportunity to deliver a message to Syria, the prime minister said the Syrians could have prevented the incident in south Lebanon yesterday. Our correspondent Ya'el Ben-Yehuda reports on Rabin's remarks:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Yehuda] The prime minister opened his remarks by saying that it is hard to talk about peace on a day when the bodies of four soldiers are being laid to rest. His conscience as prime minister and as defense minister, however, is clear, he said, because in addition to upholding security, the government is trying to attain peace on a path fraught with hardship and terror. He offered his condolences to the bereaved families and sent his wishes for a speedy recovery to the wounded.

The prime minister accused Hizballah of sabotaging peace and held it responsible for the victims killed yesterday. He did not absolve Syria either.

[Rabin] Syria could influence Hizballah and prevent it from continuing its activities. Syria does not control Hizballah; it is commanded by Iran and Lebanon. Nevertheless, Syria could use its influence to curb its activities. Syria could give its backing to the Lebanese Government by allowing it to deploy more troops in south Lebanon, as it wanted to do after Operation Accountability, thereby creating the conditions for tranquillity with a view to reaching a peace treaty with Lebanon, which entails certain arrangements concerning security and some guarantees concerning the Lebanese who have been operating alongside us. Syria has not done that, and I am afraid that in this respect, it has not shown by word or deed what we would expect of it if the idea is to establish confidence-building measures with a view to continuing the peace talks with us.

[Ben-Yehuda] The prime minister was asked whether the delegation currently in Cairo has a mandate to conclude issues.

[Rabin] The delegation headed by the foreign minister left for Egypt to conduct negotiations in order to reach agreement on key points in the implementation of the first phase of the Declaration of Principles, to finalize certain points in the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. I very much hope that an agreement will be reached—some progress was made in Davos—but this will only be the nucleus for future negotiations on a comprehensive agreement that includes all the elements enabling the beginning of the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement.

[Ben-Yehuda] The prime minister emphasized that one of Israel's principles in the peace talks is that there will be no uprooting of settlements. We will retain responsibility for settlements, Israelis, and traffic in the territories. United Jerusalem is outside the negotiations, the prime minister stated. [end recording]

Likud Head 'Demanding' Retaliation

TA0802080194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu is demanding tough military retaliation against Hizballah and has called on the government to halt the peace talks with Syria in order to pressure Hafiz al-Asad to stop the terror.

IDF Chief of Staff Comments

TA0702194294 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Report by correspondent Moshe Nussbaum]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announced that four soldiers were killed and five wounded in a Hizballah ambush in south Lebanon this morning. Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq told us a short time ago that it was a planned ambush that involved at least 15 Hizballah terrorists, as well as other forces which fired from a distance. Syria could always prevent such attacks, Lieutenant General Baraq told our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum.

[Begin recording] [Baraq] At around 1100 this morning one of our patrols, which was opening up a road to Sujud, was ambushed with light weapons and RPG fire from several hundred meters away, as well as with Sagger missiles from a distance. We sustained several casualties in the initial attack. A firefight ensued and lasted about an hour. All together, we have four fatalities—I can not give you their names because their families have not yet been notified—and five casualties. Three casualties were sustained in the incident itself and two others later. I wish to express the condolences of the entire IDF to all the families. These soldiers were among our best fighters.

A war has been going for some time along the Lebanese border. We regrettably suffer fatalities. We cause heavy losses to the other side, but we are also having a tough time. Following the conflagration, there were exchanges of fire in the region. We rushed in extra forces, including helicopter gunships. Later, there were several Israel Air Force attacks against targets from which the perpetrators of the attack originated, as well as other sites. I assume that the other side also sustained casualties.

[Unidentified correspondent] To what extent can responsibility for the incidents be placed on Syria?

[Baraq] Hizballah is responsible. We hold them mainly accountable for this, and we will make them pay. In our opinion, had the Syrians been interested they could have

contributed to an effective action by the Lebanese Government to restore calm or cease Hizballah activity, but they are not doing so. It only depends on them and the Lebanese. We will continue to fight Hizballah as much as necessary. [end recording]

'Sources' on Syria Using Hizballah

TA0802060294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops on the northern border and in the security zone have been placed on alert, and Israel is closely following what is happening in the north.

Military and political sources say that a trend of escalating terror attacks has persisted since the beginning of the dialogue with the PLO. In 1993, the number of terror attacks in Lebanon doubled, the number of infiltration attempts increased considerably, and the organizations opposed to the peace process have exhibited a higher motivation to infiltrate into Israel and carry out attacks. The sources say Syria will continue to use Hizballah, as it has in previous years, according to its political needs.

Concern Expressed Over Fatah Hawks-Hamas Cooperation

TA0702122994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Feb 94 pp A1, A8

[Report by army affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin and Amira Hess]

[Text] Defense establishment and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] elements are concerned about the emerging cooperation between several Fatah Hawks squads, which have rebelled against the local Fatah leadership in the Gaza Strip, and Hamas elements.

A report submitted by security elements indicates that Fatah Hawks squads were in touch with Hamas recently about possible cooperation, but no agreement was signed.

So far, Hamas has merely provided moral support to the insurgent Fatah Hawks squads, but it is believed that the two sides will initiate joint operations at a later stage.

The security elements' report states that 51 Fatah fugitives and activists have set up several squads and rebelled against the organization. The activists and the fugitives, including some who participated in attacks on Israelis, have acquired increasing power which rests mainly on support from accomplices.

The report further indicates that the PLO-Tunis leaders have lost control over the Fatah Hawks squads. Even more serious, according to the report, is the fact that the squads have rebelled against the young local leadership of the Gaza Strip Fatah organization.

It is believed that the local Fatah leadership in the Strip, headed by Sami Abu-Samahdanah, 'Iyad al-Ashqar, Dhiyab al-Lawh, and Sufiyan Abu-Zayida, is also unable to control the splinter squads.

The security report asserts that several elements within the PLO leadership in the Strip, including fugitives, have rejected the authority of Fatah because of its agreement to ban attacks following the signing of the declaration of principles on 13 September.

The report says that Fatah members who have rejected the organization's authority are still carrying out attacks, and in recent weeks, they have been involved in attacks on IDF and security troops. It has been further learned that the local leadership is also worried about the emerging cooperation.

In view of the intensifying Fatah Hawks activities, the Jordanian branch of Hamas has issued an open statement encouraging the squads' work and even urging their expansion.

The defense establishment has decided to continue the manhunt for these fugitives despite their affiliation with Fatah and despite the agreement that Fatah members would no longer be classified as fugitives.

"The PLO leadership in Tunis, as well as the local leadership, realize that the IDF will continue hunting the fugitives, even if they continue to protest against this," a security figure has stated.

The report also refers to the local leadership's fear of a wave of purges liable to be launched because of the discord—which has not yet developed into a physical confrontation—between peace agreement supporters and those opponents who have left the organization.

In a leaflet disseminated yesterday in Gaza, the Fatah Hawks claim responsibility for the assassination of three collaborators over the past two weeks. A photocopy of the "license to carry arms and ammunition" belonging to one of the victims was attached to the leaflet.

The three dead men are Salah 'Ashur from Dayr al-Balah and Yusuf al-Salibi from Gaza, whose bodies were discovered last Monday, and Muhammad Shihadah, alias al-Qaqam, from Jabalyah, murdered 12 days ago.

The leaflet contends that activities against collaborators are coordinated between the leadership and the Hawks, although it implies a controversy over this matter between the Fatah "military branch" and the civilian leadership, which has reservations about the executions because of their detrimental impact on society. In the leaflet, the Hawks pledge to carry out every order of the Yasir 'Arafat-headed leadership, adding at the same time: "We announce that we will punish every traitor and collaborator."

The leaflet announces that the Hawks have interrogated 'Ashur, "a collaborator since the 1970's and one of the most dangerous," warning other collaborators that 'Ashur divulged their names during his interrogation and that "the Fatah bullets are not far from them. We will soon meet."

The Hawks leaflet further claims that Shihadah was "a member of the undercover units."

Beilin: Government To Resign If Defeated in Referendum

TA0802063294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Addressing a meeting of the World Jewish Congress in Washington yesterday, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that if the government is defeated in the referendum on peace with Syria, it will quit on the spot.

[Begin Beilin recording, in English] If the results of the referendum will be negative, we will resign the same day, and then another government which doesn't believe that it is possible to make peace in our generation will take the reins of the rule and will decide for the future of Israel. [end recording]

Poll: Ramon Best for Premier After Rabin, Peres

TA0402115494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Feb 94 p 1

["Public opinion poll conducted for YEDI'OT AHARONOT by the Dahaf Institute directed by Dr. Mina Tzemah;" all results cited in percentages]

[Excerpts] Question: If Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres decide not to run in the next elections, which of the following Labor figures would be the most suitable for the post of prime minister?

	General public	Labor party supporters
Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer	12	17
Hayim Ramon	30	31
Avraham Shohat	5	5
Moshe Shahal	11	11
Did not reply	42	36

[Passage omitted] The poll, which was conducted on 1 and 2 February from 512 interviewees constituting a representative sample of the adult Israeli population. The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

Three Tzomet MK's Suspend Decision To Resign

TA0602143594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Tzomet Knesset members [MK's], Salmovitz, Goldfarb, and Segev have decided to suspend their decision to resign from Tzomet and have pulled back the letter of resignation they sent to the Knesset House Committee demanding to be recognized as a separate faction.

Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that MK's Salmovitz, Goldfarb, and Segev are now seeking to reconvene Tzomet's Central Committee within two weeks in order to discuss their demand that their allegations of financial mismanagement in the movement be investigated. The MK's said that if their suspicions prove true, they will demand that Tzomet Director General Doron Shmu'eli take a leave of absence until the investigation into the matter is concluded.

MK Ester Salmovitz, who is deputy speaker of the Knesset, explained that she and her two colleagues would retain their posts until the Central Committee convened. Our correspondent reports that Tzomet Chairman Refa'el Eytan announced that he would reply to the three MK's request in several hours.

Settlement Council Role in Protest Moves Viewed

TA0302192094 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Feb 94 p 11

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] The list of groups acting against the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement—mainly out in the streets and against any peace agreement between Israel and its neighbors—is bound to be very long. A notice announcing the establishment of a new, a hitherto unheard of group is daily placed in our mailboxes. Whatever their number, they represent an achievement scored by the settler lobby unified under the roof of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, or in short—the YESHA' [acronym for Judaea, Samaria, Gaza] Council. [passage omitted]

The emergence of the various protest groups can be credited to a few enthusiasts from settlements, from Jerusalem, and from other locations throughout the country. The YESHA' Council is ostensibly uninvolved in their establishment, which is presented as a personal initiative motivated by anxiety for democracy and the Israeli nation's well-being. In practice, most groups are in one way or another linked to the YESHA' Council, which assists them in every way, including lobbying, telephone and fax facilities, and even through the services of their spokesmen. [passage omitted]

One of the most veteran organizations is the Action Committee for the Annulment of the Autonomy Plan, which is inspired by Elyaqim Ha'etzni. Ha'etzni explains that the somewhat obsolete name is due to the fact that the body was established back in the days when autonomy, and not self-rule, was on the agenda. "Later we were visited by this catastrophe, the new government, and today our main job is to try and save Eretz Yisra'el."

In brochures and flyers, Ha'etzni calls for civil mutiny. "Do not play according to the rules!" says his introduction to a leaflet, which is rife with quotations from Moshe Hanegbi, 'Amos 'Oz, and Thomas Jefferson in support of illegal action for the sake of liberty. In Ha'etzni's understanding, the implementation of Palestinian self-rule in Judaea and Samaria is a violation of that liberty. "Signing such an agreement and sacrificing us all on the false altar of peace is an illegal act."

His leaflet speaks of "the insane government" "which endangers the life of every Jew from Holon to Hebron," whose leaders are as good as prostitutes.

Ha'etzni encloses a questionnaire to the leaflet asking the reader to fill it out and send back to the action committee. This is what the form says: "I, the undersigned, will not carry out a plainly illegal order. I will not uproot settlements." Ha'etzni does what Yesh Gvul [organization supporting soldiers' refusal to serve in territories] never dared: He openly calls on citizens to violate laws and disobey orders.

In the propaganda material he disseminates Ha'etzni explains how important it is to be arrested. "The stick of detention should not scare anyone," Ha'etzni told DAVAR. "We ought to take the Palestinians' place in prisons. When thousands of Jews are in jail, the government will fall."

Another body in the midst of hectic activity is This Is Our Land [Zo Artzeynu], the group which initiated the Hamakhpil [doubling] operation that aims to establish new quasi-settlements in the vicinity of existing ones independently and demonstratively, in full knowledge that the operation is illegal. The operation organizers have two addresses: Ginot Shomron and the state of New York, the United States. [passage omitted]

At first the YESHA' Council subscribed to the concept that new settlements should be established and the existing ones expanded without consulting the authorities. At some point, however, heads of the YESHA' local and regional councils concluded that the idea may elicit negative public reactions, and they decided to pull out. Today the YESHA' Council's official stand on this matter is that they are not partners in the endeavor, but will not take action against it. When necessary, they provide assistance, providing telephone services and any other required logistic facilities.

In the wake of this week's arrests, the YESHA' Council issued a public statement protesting the police commissioner's announcement about the plan to set up detention camps for settlers and criticizing the government "which releases Palestinian terrorists at the same time detaining good Jews." One of the publications of This Is Our Land notes that the organization supports the women's group headed by Rut Matar.

Women for the Sake of Tomorrow [Nashim Lema'an Hamahar], Matar's organization, also opposes the peace process and does not mince words describing its objection to the government's peace plan. "Peres and 'Arafat have reached an agreement in Switzerland, in other words: The terrorist Palestinian state is in the making," their press communique says, urging reporters to come and cover their rally near the Jerusalem-Jericho road in Ma'ale Adumim last Tuesday. "This road will be the main road from Jerusalem to the terrorist state. Any Jew daring to take this road will be jeopardizing his life," the statement adds. [passage omitted]

This week we received propaganda material from the Public Committee for the Protection of Ma'ale Adumim. This week, a hostile rally welcomed Police Minister Moshe Shahal as he arrived to inaugurate the first Civil Guard station in the territories. "In Jericho the government plans to arm 3,000 terrorists, and in Ma'ale Adumim it establishes a Civil Guard station with 30 soldiers," their leaflet states. There are no soldiers in the Civil Guard, only civilians. "The Ma'ale Adumim kindergartens are against the Gaza and Jericho agreement," says another leaflet. One activist with the group believes the possibility of handing Judaea and Samaria over to Palestinian rule undemocratic. "A free regime has no right to uproot a settlement and assail citizens rights, even if they are an unpopular minority."

The group works in coordination with, and is sometimes financed by the YESHA' Council, and is closely associated with This Is Our Land.

Newspapers occasionally carry advertisements placed by various groups denouncing the government's peace plan, and each of these groups is confident that its way is the right one: Professors for Political and Economic Strength; Army officers join forces in the Awakening and National Strength Forum. The executive committee of the Knesset opposition came out with the slogan—the Eretz Yisra'el Front, while the Endeavor [Ma'amatz] Action Committee, headed by Ya'aqov Novik and Ya'aqov Sternberg invests daily efforts and complicated logistics in organizing rallies, transportation, and other necessary steps. Their activities are centered mainly in Jerusalem.

Bney 'Aqiva [youth movement affiliated with the National Religious Party], and the 'Ezra and Habad movements are willing to supply anyone with masses of youths for rallies, sometimes for the purpose of collecting donations.

The activity is initiated by West Bank settlers and Jerusalem-based activists ideologically related to the tenets of Gush Emunim. Their primary goal is to foil the peace agreement with the Palestinians. The protest activities against withdrawal from the Golan Heights have become a part of the greater drive, and today it is sometimes difficult to tell the issues apart. This did not happen by accident. The first stimulus for demonstrating against withdrawal from the Golan Heights came from West Bank settlers, who organized and prodded the Golan activists to rally against the peace agreement. In

these groups, activists speak in the same breath of the West Bank and the Golan Heights, brewing a sentimental concoction of arguments about the nature of Israel's ties and problems with the Palestinians on the one hand and with Syria on the other.

Others view the Golan Heights as a separate issue while emphasizing that they do not oppose the government policy, that they are only against giving up the Golan.

The slogan "People With the Golan" pasted on thousands of verandas was the work of the Golan Action Committees [Matot Hagolan]. A prominent activist based in Jerusalem, a sort of an aficionado, says that since the movement is scattered throughout the country, all the work in done by volunteers and with modest donations, "because the problem is not just of the Golan settlers. The entire nation should decide this vital issue of the Golan. There is no right or left in this matter."

Setting up signing-up stands throughout the country, activists expand their enterprise by enlisting new activists. They claim to be unrelated to the YESHA' Council or the Golan Settlement Committee headed by Eli Malka.

In all these fields, the YESHA' Council operates behind the scenes. On the one hand, its activists are pleased with the voluntary operations conducted in various locations. Their work is done by others. On the other hand, it does not want to lose control. For that reason, it has established a superstructure named the Joint Action Committee [Hamate Hameshutaf]. A Tel Aviv office organizing rallies throughout the country is financed by YESHA', according to the secretary who took our phone call. Meetings at which short- and long-term activities are coordinated are held periodically at the council offices. All the groups receive assistance from the YESHA' Council: telephone and fax facilities, spokesman's services, and probably funds too.

As if the number of organizations and names was insufficient, they established One Israel [Yisra'el Ahat], a body defined as the operational headquarters of the Joint Action Committee. It is headed by Moshe Merhavya, a resident of 'Eli who had worked for Minister Ari'el Sharon at the Construction and Housing Ministry and is credited with having obtained the authorities' approval for so many new houses in the settlement of 'Eli in recent years.

Yesterday's demonstration in the ancient synagogue of Jericho, for instance, had been planned in Knesset Member [MK] Hanan Porat's office at the Knesset last week. The meeting was attended by Uri Ari'el, chairman of the YESHA' Council, by Moshe Merhavya, and a representative of the Endeavor Action Committee. People want to stand by MK Porat's side and show the Jericho synagogue students that they are not being abandoned, YESHA' Council members said and proceeded to help print notices about transportation to the rally.

IDF Seen Out of Place in Negotiating Process

TA0802124394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Feb 94 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "A Creeping Putsch?"]

[Text] Israel is more or less divided in two: tall people and short people, fat people and thin people, and Rabin's men and Peres' men. Under this division, politicians have been dragging the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to a place where it does not belong: the arduous road of internal political struggle.

The question is not what is the professional opinion voiced by the chief of staff and his subordinates in internal forums discussing the peace process but who is leaking the chief of staff's views and for what purpose. Last Friday, YEDI'OT AHARONOT—which, according to the aforementioned division, gets its leaks from the tall people—carried a front-page report that "the chief of staff is trying to create a crisis with 'Arafat." Five days have gone by, and we have not heard of the IDF spokesman issuing any denial. To make sure, I officially approached the spokesman and asked him whether he could deny the report, which I consider serious. After all, it is not every day that a chief of staff plans to sabotage a move decided upon by the government. The spokesman said he did not participate in the meeting and, consequently, could not issue a denial.

I pursued my inquiries with a higher level and found that there are no plans to issue a denial. I was told: "We do not deny every report appearing in the press." Although this refusal in no way constitutes confirmation of the report, I got the impression that the Army top brass is not really sorry that its reservations about the Davos understandings are getting so much publicity. One need not be an erudite political commentator to realize that the chief of staff—and definitely the prime minister—are not averse to the leaks.

The wave of reports about the Army's reservations has a purpose: to rein Shim'on Peres in. "There is a man who is very displeased with the rapid progress in the negotiations with the Palestinians, and he systematically leaks information against the agreement," says a man close to the foreign minister—and we can only guess who he is referring to. Others look for the psychological angle. They think that to this day, the chief of staff has been unable to forget that he was not let in on the Oslo agreement. He has been very critical of the loopholes in the agreement and now wants to approve every comma and period. Into his fourth year as chief of staff and in view of his ambition to have a far-reaching political career, Baraq cannot afford to fail in the implementation of the agreement on Gaza and Jericho, those people say.

The chief of staff, however, is not the main protagonist in the affair of the Army's public involvement. The main protagonist is the defense minister, who is disturbed by Peres' hyperactivity.

In the meeting of the "peace team forum" held on the morning of 27 January (attended by Rabin, Peres, Baraq, Shahaq, Dayan, Sagi, Haber, Yatom, the head of the Shin Bet, and three senior Foreign Ministry officials), Peres found himself in the minority in the face of the criticism of the Army top brass. From that day on, but mainly after Peres and 'Arafat were seen holding hands and bursting with joy, there have been systematic leaks about the Army's opposition to the Davos agreement, including reports about this confidential meeting. Indeed, the signing in Davos was torpedoed successfully. Peres was forced to travel to Cairo with new demands.

The General Staff's reservations may or may not be relevant, but that is not the point. The point is the way in which the IDF was ushered into the political decision-making process. Rabin's dominance as prime minister and defense minister, coupled with his disregard for his cabinet ministers and his suspicion of Peres, created a situation where Ehud Baraq became his confidant and his close adviser. The inner cabinet has been replaced by a group of senior officers trusted by Rabin and Baraq. And, somehow, the fine line dividing the executive branch from the elected level has been blurred. Suddenly we find Army officers negotiating peace or sitting on either side of Rabin in meetings with statesmen. Thus the Army finds itself siding with one minister against another and involved in decisions that are the exclusive prerogative of the elected level.

A military putsch, if you forgive my expression, comes in many forms. It does not necessarily entail usurping a legitimate government by force. Excessive involvement of the army in government bodies, even if solicited by the highest level, is a type of putsch. Perhaps a creeping putsch. Those who want to uphold checks and balances, the separation of powers, and the subordination of civil servants to elected officials should put the Army back where it belongs as an apolitical entity.

Czech Premier Meets Weizman, Likud Chairman

LD0702182394 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1300 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus had a short meeting with Israeli President Ezer Weizman in Jerusalem today. But before the meeting with the Israeli president, he [Klaus] had talks with Binyamin Netanyahu, chairman of the right-wing opposition Likud bloc, who is a staunch opponent of the present Israeli Government's policy on Palestinians.

Talks between President Weizman and Vaclav Klaus centered mainly on the general situation in the Middle East while Klaus' discussions with Binyamin Netanyahu concentrated on the level of privatization in both countries and on economic reform in the Czech Republic.

Prime Minister Klaus commented to Czech radio on his talks [with Netanyahu].

[Begin Klaus recording] This is a political party that puts emphasis on similar principles as the political party [Civic Democratic Party], which I lead, and [on similar principles] as the government coalition that rules in the Czech Republic. We, therefore, preferred to talk about our views on civic, social, political, and economic matters. The Middle East issue or the question of Palestine did not dominate our discussions. [passage omitted] It is absolutely evident that the Czech Republic is, in these areas [of privatization], the country with a greater private sector, the country with a lesser tax burden, the country with less regulatory measures and state intervention in the economy. These were matters the Israeli party was exceedingly interested in. [end recording]

Rabin, Klaus Sign Cooperation Accord

LD0702222394 Prague Stanice Praha Radio Network in Czech 2130 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] In Jerusalem today, Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin signed a joint statement on the promotion of economic relations between Israel and the Czech Republic. According to Prime Minister Klaus, the document carries a decision on immediate preparation for a further step toward the liberalization of bilateral trade. This step should result in an agreement on a free-trade zone between the Czech Republic and Israel in the very near future.

At the same time, the Czech Republic and Israel have succeeded in concluding the two-year long discussion on the text of the bilateral agreement on the protection of investment and on profit repatriation. At a news conference, Prime Minister Klaus returned to the possibility of Czech arms exports to the so-called sensitive countries. He repeated that arms exports were carried out on the basis of a government license and in line with the law.

Diplomat Denies 'Crisis' in Ties With Iran

NC0702194194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Jordan's Ambassador in Egypt Nayif Sa'ud al-Qadi has denied that there was a diplomatic crisis between his country and Iran that led to the reduction of the Iranian diplomatic staff in Amman.

In statements to MENA, he said that all the Jordanian Government did was request that the number of Iranian diplomats in Amman be close to the number of Jordanian diplomats in Tehran.

He added that the Iranian Government did not object, and understood the motives of the Jordanian request, which was made according to diplomatic norms. He affirmed that the request had nothing to do with any incident before or after it was made.

He noted that current Jordanian-Iranian relations are normal, that both countries have embassies in each other's capitals, that there is normal trade exchange between them, and that Jordan always seeks friendly relations with Arab and Islamic countries.

The Jordanian Government had requested the departure of 21 out of the 26 diplomats at the Iranian Embassy by the end of February. In its request, the Jordanian Government explained that the move was aimed at achieving a balance in the diplomatic representation between the two countries because only three diplomats are working at the Jordanian Embassy in Tehran.

While Iran announced its acceptance of Jordan's request, Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo said that relations between Jordan and Iran are somewhat clouded after Iran recently submitted to the Jordanian Government a number of proposals for relations between the two countries to be enhanced through popular, not official, political channels, over which Amman expressed reservations.

The diplomatic sources interpreted this as fear of infiltration by pro-Iranian forces into Jordanian political life as was the case with Hizballah in Lebanon, especially at a time when the Jordanian Government is strenuously trying to contain the Islamic extremist trend that overshadows the country's political life.

These developments come at a time when the Jordanian Government has expressed displeasure at the recent burglary attack on the home of Jordanian Ambassador in Tehran Yasin Istanbuli. The Jordanian Government believes that the Iranian authorities did not deal with the incident properly. These developments also coincide with the assassination of the Jordanian diplomat Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah in Beirut by people believed to be extremists and with explosions at two movie theaters in Amman and al-Zarqa' last week.

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry has announced that it arrested a group of Afghan Arab returnees who received military training during the Afghan war against the former Soviet occupation.

The Jordanian Interior Ministry said that these Afghans were responsible for the explosions at the two movie theaters.

The Jordanian-Iranian relations improved after the end of the Gulf crisis. Diplomatic relations between Amman and Tehran were resumed in 1991 after a 10-year hiatus because of Jordan's support for Iraq in its war against Iran.

'Brutal Massacre' in Sarajevo Market Denounced

JN0702132694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] In a statement issued today, the House of Representatives has appealed to people with a live conscience, regardless of their positions, especially world parliaments, the Security Council, the United Nations, and human rights organizations, to work seriously to end the crimes committed by the Serbs against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The statement asked for severe, deterrent punitive measures against the aggressive Serbs and immediately lifting the siege of the city of Sarajevo and all other Islamic cities in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It also urged supplying the Bosnians with arms, equipment, food, and medicine, and allowing them to defend themselves by lifting the arms embargo, if the international forces do not immediately oppose the aggression against land, man, and human values.

The statement asserted that the painful, brutal massacre against Sarajevo by the shells of the Serbs, which killed or injured hundreds of people and targeted defenseless civilians—elderly, women, and children—is a link in the brutal aggression against innocent Muslims. The massacre took place amid international silence and mere verbal decisions.

Economic, Trade Talks Held With Chinese Delegation

JN0302190194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] At the offices of the Jordanian Corporation of the Development of Exports and Jordanian Commerical Centers, a round of economic and trade talks has been held between the Jordanian side under Marwan 'Awad, director general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and the Chinese side under Li Ping, deputy director of the Chinese Council for the Development of International Trade. Also present was Dr. Muhammad Bani-Hani, director general of the Corporation.

Mr. Marwan 'Awad spoke to the news desk about the talks:

[Begin 'Awad recording] We met with the director and the joint delegation of the Chinese chambers of commerce and the Chinese Exports Development Corporation. We reviewed the status of economic and commercial cooperation between the two sides and the agreements in place between our two countries. We pointed out the investment opportunities that may induce Chinese businessmen to invest in Jordan. We proposed instituting assembly lines using Chinese technology and expertise. Investors would benefit from Jordan's position and its relations with neighboring states through the bilateral pacts it has with them. This is in addition to the joint investment opportunities that may open up for Chinese investors. We also updated them on the measures taken to promote the export of Jordanian products to China in settlement of a Chinese loan to Jordan. It is a good opportunity for us to introduce Jordanian products to the Chinese market.

In addition to increased trade, our aim is to reduce the deficit in the balance of trade estimated at $35-40 million. We import $60 million worth of goods from China and our exports to China are on the order of $20-25 million. The Chinese side said they were willing to raise the volume of bilateral exchanges and boost their Jordanian imports. They requested and obtained detailed lists of Jordanian goods that may form an export basis to China.

For their part, the Chinese delegation will, through the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Exports Development Corporation, distribute the lists to the interested quarters. [end recording]

Delegation Views Cooperation, Departs

JN0502172994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Feb 94 p 3

[Special to the JORDAN TIMES, by Ian 'Atallah]

[Text] Amman—The China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) delegation ended its trip to Jordan Thursday [3 February] indicating that it was guardedly optimistic about prospects for enhancing future Sino-Jordanian trade cooperation.

Delegation head Li Ping told a group of Amman World Trade Centre members that "frankly speaking, we still don't know very much about the Jordanian market."

The CCPIT team Thursday visited the Jordan Trade Association (JTA), The Amman World Trade Centre (AWTC) and the Jordan Export Development and Commerical Centres Corporation (JEDCO), where it was addressed by Marwan 'Awad, the secretary-general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Both the members of the JTA and Mr. Awad emphasised to Mr. Ping that Jordan wished to see greater equality in the current trade balance between the two countries.

Although official figures vary, Jordan currently imports from China a little over three times in value as it exports there.

"I think that it is our responsibility as well as yours to bridge the trade gap," Mr. 'Awad told the Chinese team.

In that area, he stated, discussions were underway between the two countries on how to structure Jordan's repayments of some $47 million in debts due to China from foreign aid, and that the loans would be repaid by Jordan partly in commodities.

"Although the amount of commodities involved will be relatively small, it will give us the chance to introduce some of our products to the Chinese market."

Mr. Ping stated at the meeting with JTA members, however, that "an actual balance in bilateral trade may be very difficult to achieve."

Mr. Ping told the JORDAN TIMES that "the two countries' economic complementarity is not very large, and Jordanian products suitable to China are few."

"The key point, and one which we are stressing very heavily to the Jordanians, is that they need to provide us with detailed information and specific lists of suitable products which we could select from. Our attitude is positive," he said, but the bottom line regarding hard benefits of any imported Jordanian commodities to china and their price range still had to be adhered to.

Mr. Ping told the JORDAN TIMES that China's economy was currently undergoing near-explosive expansion, with last year seeing a 12 per cent economic growth rate and an overall foreign trade increase of 18 per cent. "Last year, our total import value reached $104 billion, a 29 per cent increase over the previous year, so you see that we are looking for suitable products with great urgency."

He said that China's current main needs were in the areas of technology and infrastructure development, specifically in the areas of air, land and sea transport and transport facilities, telecommunications and communications network development, energy technology and raw materials processing technology, and modernisation of China's agricultural sector.

"All of these are top priorities for China's development. With regard to these areas, China has great demand for import. But the key issue is, once again, what products does Jordan have that are suitable for our market."

At the Amman World Trade Centre, the AWTC's members told Mr. Ping that one important area for improvement in Sino-Jordanian commece was in the field of banking communications.

There were no direct routes of correspondence between Jordanian and Chinese banks, and the banks from both sides had very limited knowledge of each other, which

leads to indirect and inefficient routing of bank transaction and transfers, long delays and added costs.

Overall, they told Mr. Ping, this present situation cramps trade between the two countries greatly.

They suggested the establishment of a comprehensive communications network between Jordanian and Chinese banks as well as exchange of information between the two banking communities.

They also suggested that the Bank of China open a major branch office sometwhere in the Middle East.

Mr. Ping concurred with the AWTC members, saying that banking and its development in China had not kept pace with overall economic growth, and that foreign banks had only recently begun to establish branch offices in China, and on a limited scope.

Wang Yuechun, third secretary at the Chinese Embassy commerical office in Amman, told the JORDAN TIMES that in the future, China planned to send trade delegations to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He said that China was very interested in assisting in the rebuilding of the Palestinian economy and that China's motives in the case were not merely economic, but political as well, as China had long been in sympathy with the Palestinian people and "their struggle to regain their rights and dignity."

Regulation on Food Safety, Drug Inspection Endorsed

JN0502140594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] During a session held under Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali today, the cabinet endorsed a regulation on food safety, a regulation on the inspection of drugs, an amendment to the private hospitals regulation, and an amendment to the Ministry of Health's regulation on administrative organization.

IAF Position on Food, Drug Case Criticized

JN0502100194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Feb 94 p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) is being targeted for criticism for remaining "uninvolved" in the food and drug case which was raised by Minister of Health Abd al-Rahim Malhas two weeks ago. And while its representatives have responded to critics in the press and among IAF constituency, the front has yet to outline its position towards the affairs.

Some analysts believe that the IAF has been unable to make up its mind over support of Dr. Malhas if only because a large percentage of its constituency is pharmacists and food traders whose interests have been targeted by Dr. Malhas's criticism.

On the other hand, the IAF does not want to appear to be siding with the government especially since it was Dr. 'Abd al-Salam al- Majali's government that was perceived to be targeting the Islamists by the change in the Election Law to a one-person, one- vote system.

Other analysts believe that the IAF cannot be called upon to have a unified party line on this issue because the issue is "non-partisan" and is not political in nature.

These analysts believe that the IAF has within its ranks the same split in opinion over the minister's statements as the one that has appeared in society at large.

The IAF's position may become clearer when its spokesperson in parliament, Hamzah Mansur, takes the floor today. But in the meantime, the front has attempted to ward off criticism by other deputies and political forces in the country.

It has, nevertheless, worded its response carefully to avoid committing itself to any particular position.

In fact, on Wednesday, the first day of parliamentary discussion of the Malhas allegations, the IAF deputies who are usually at the fore of those signing up to speak against the government did not take the podium and left it instead to the deputies who lashed out at the minister.

Critics of the powerful Islamic party maintain that the movement failed to give adequate attention to Dr. Malhas' charges of corruption among businessmen and importers and within the bureaucracy of the ministry itself.

Two weeks ago, a weekly Arabic newspaper quoted Dr. Malhas as saying that a good quantity of food and medicine that reaches the market does not meet international standards and specifications.

He pointed the finger at what he described as "whales" in the business sector who, he maintained, have exercised pressure and intimidated food and drug control employees in his ministry.

The minister's statements created panic in the Kingdom, especially since Dr. Malhas directly connected the increased percentage of cancer cases in the country with the quality of imported food and drugs.

The Lower House of Parliament immediately called for a session to discuss the charges of the minister and initiate investigations into the minister's claims. The House gave the government three days to present a report substantiating the minister's statements. But in what appeared to be an isolated incident, the IAF's deputies in the Lower House were seen as the only organised bloc in the House which accepted the government's request to delay discussion of what has been titled by the local press as "Malhas gate."

Other "opposition" deputies had demanded that the government stick to the deadline of last Sunday but they failed to gain the support of the IAF deputies except

al-Zarqa' Deputy Bassam al-'Mousb, who seconded the government' motion for delay saying that they also needed time to "collect information."

Criticism of the IAF's position grew when the president of the Pharmacists Association, Husam Musmar, who was elected on an Islamist platform, published a letter dismissing Dr. Malhas' call for upgrading and enforcing legislation which would provide for tighter control over the quality of food and medicine in the Kingdom.

At the same time Mr. Musmar published his letter in local Arabic papers, AL-SABIL, an Islamist weekly believed to be the mouthpiece of the IAF which also marginalised the importance of Dr. Malhas's statements much to the chagrin of its Islamist readers.

In this week's edition, AL-SABIL's editor in chief, Hilmi al-Asmar, sought to ward off criticism that the Islamists were in support of business interests at the expense of the health of the people.

In a long column he also sought to dispel charges that the Islamists' dismissal of the charges made by Dr. Malhas was because he was a well-known critic of Islamist calls for stricter social laws, especially in regard to segregation of men and women. Before assuming his post as minister of health, Dr. Malhas wrote a weekly column in AL-RA'Y Arabic daily in which he often lashed out at fundamentalist social demands and called for progressive and liberal policies.

"We understand the criticism of our brothers who love us and are loved by us, because we did not give the food and medicine case its due in our earlier edition of AL-SABIL," Mr. al-Asmar said in his column.

"But it was not because we do not want to point to the cases of corruption in our society and not because we are enemies of any particular individual," he added.

Mr. al-Asmar asserted since other Arabic language papers had dedicated enough space to the case "AL-SABIL did not feel the need to repeat what was already published."

He was responding to a letter the weekly received from al-Tafilah and which was signed by 23 IAF supporters.

In that letter, which AL-SABIL published on the inside page, the signatories said: "There was great disappointment among the youth of the Islamic movement when your paper was published without investigating or saying a word of support for this important national issue."

The signatories were especially critical of a column by Mr. al-Asmar which the letter said "was weak and denied the existence of corruption but instead took the opposite view."

"If there is animosity towards some newspapers, then this should not stop you as Muslims, as a movement and newspaper, to say that is right," the letter added.

The signatories also pointed out that "Islamists were the first to open the files of corruption in the last Parliament, and the Islamists have based on their election campaign on putting an end to financial and administrative corruption."

AL-SABIL also carried two items signed by the "editorial staff" in which it said that they were happy to receive "an unending number of telephone calls" and that they were not above criticism.

"We stress that we are completely on the side of the citizen... and by deduction in support of the minister of health against the whales of corruption," one of the pieces said.

The criticism of the IAF movement's position was also apparent in other papers, including the evening daily AKHIR KHABAR, which accused the movement of siding with the rich against the poor.

"We were hoping that the IAF would take this opportunity to stand by the minister at this crucial moment because it is the poor people who give the Islamic movement its political base and its parliamentary seats, and not the large businesses even if they cloak themselves in Islam," it said in an article signed by Nahid Hattar.

"I worry about the movement, which appears torn between the power of the people and the force of those with interests, tilting towards the side that we cannot accept," Mr. Hattar added.

Mr. Hattar's column appeared side by side with a letter from the official spokesperson of the IAF deputies, Hamzah Mansur, who was replying to a similar charge made by Mr. Hattar a day earlier.

"I was surprised, as were my brothers the IAF deputies, by what appeared in Mr. Nahid Hattar's article in which he categorised the deputies into two groups: one with the poor people and the other which stands with the whales," Mr. Mansur said.

"We reject the notion that our society should be divided into rich and poor for wealth is not a crime... Citizens, both rich and poor, are our brothers and family," Dr. Mansur added.

Palestinian Reportedly Admits to Murder of Diplomat

NC0702175994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] There have been important developments in the investigation into the assassination of Jordanian diplomat Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah nine days ago.

Security sources this afternoon confirmed a REUTER report that the Lebanese police have arrested a Palestinian, who admitted that he assassinated al-Ma'ayitah. Citing security sources, REUTER reported that the accused belongs to a Palestinian fedayeen group, and that he is currently being questioned. The agency added that the investigation by security men has led to the arrest of two people belonging to a Palestinian organization in connection with al-Ma'ayitah's assassination last Saturday.

When Interior Minister Bishara Mirhij was asked about additional information on this matter, he replied that the case is in the hands of the judiciary, and that the investigation is continuing.

Possible Ties to Abu-Nidal Group Noted

JN0702194594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] In Amman, a diplomatic source has announced that the Lebanese police have arrested two persons suspected of killing Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah, the Jordanian counselor at the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut who was assassinated in 29 January in the Lebanese capital. The same source added that the two arrested persons are Palestinians who belong to a hard-line group which could be Fatah-the Revolutionary Council led by Abu-Nidal.

Hizballah Official, Iranian Envoy Address Rally

PM0802115094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Feb 94 p2

[Unattributed report: "Hizballah: We Have Seen Nothing From the Government Except Harm to Its People"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Iranian Ambassador in Beirut Homayun 'Alizadeh has criticized the "suspect media campaigns against the Islamic Republic, exaggeration of small matters, and attempts to cast doubt on the Iranian economy."

Addressing a speech rally held in Beirut yesterday to mark the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, he referred to "imperialist moves to undermine the nation's steadfastness and force it to follow a new plan intended for the region."

He enumerated "the Islamic Republic's achievements," noting that "it was able to increase the local product by 7.7 percent, while the average local product increase last year did not exceed 2 percent." He pointed out that the aim of "the imperialist campaign is to undermine Iran's stability and security through groups linked to it."

Shaykh Na'im Qasim, Hizballah's deputy secretary general, spoke on the occasion and attacked the Lebanese Government, saying "we have seen nothing from it except harm to its people and to all Lebanon." He spoke of "the government's suppression of the press and the media because they talk about the head of that government or some of its members."

Wrapup of Hizballah, Israeli Actions in South

NC0702180794 Paris AFP in English 1649 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, Feb 7 (AFP)—[Passage omitted] A spokesman for the Islamic Resistance, Hizballah's armed wing, told AFP in Beirut that its guerrillas destroyed an Israeli Merkava tank, killing or wounding an unspecified number of Israeli soldiers.

Israeli warplanes later raided Hizballah strongholds near the south Lebanon port city of Sidon.

Two Israeli fighter bombers swooped over the Jabal al-Safi hills southeast of Sidon, firing several missiles at Hizballah positions, while a second wave of attacks targeted the nearby village of al-Luwayzah, Lebanese police said.

Three Israeli Cobra helicopters strafed the Iqlim al-Tuffah ridge, where Hizballah has hideouts dug into rock.

The guerrillas launched three surface-to-air SAM-7 missiles at the helicopters but missed.

Israeli gunners fired around 150 shells on the Iqlim al-Tuffah and the southern district of the eastern al-Biqa' Valley while Hizballah fired around 40 Katyusha rockets into the security zone, security sources said.

One of the rockets hit a home, near the barracks of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in Marj 'Uyun, wounding a woman and her four children, hospital officials said.

The guerrillas also carried out two other bomb attacks on patrols from the Israeli army and its proxy South Lebanon Army militia (SLA), apparently causing no casualties.

A 10-year-old child was killed meanwhile and three were hurt in a landmine blast near the southern port of Tyre, UN peacekeepers said. It was not clear if the mine was

left over from Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon or if it had been sown recently.

Israeli army deputy chief-of-staff Amnon Shahaq warned last month that the Israeli army is "facing a real war" in south Lebanon against Hizballah.

Last year, 26 Israeli soldiers were killed in clashes in south Lebanon, compared with 13 in 1992, according to an Israeli army report.

Hizballah, which is staunchly opposed to Arab-Israeli peace talks, is the only militia which has not been disarmed by the Lebanese authorities since the end of the 15-year war in 1990.

It is spearheading anti-Israeli attacks, which eased in the run up to the January 16 Geneva summit between Syrian President Hafiz al-'Asad and US President Bill Clinton.

There have been 20 attacks since.

Iran

Ayatollah Khamene'i: Country Not Seeking Banned Weapons

LD0802134794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Excerpts] On the occasion of 19 Bahman [8 February]—Air Force Day—thousands of Air Force commanders, officers, and NCOs were received by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution and the commander in chief, at Imam Khomeyni prayer house this morning. [passage omitted]

Referring to the arrogant powers' propaganda invasion of Iran His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: The enemies of the revolution accuse the Islamic Republic of Iran of having military tendencies and seeking banned weapons, while America and her accomplices, including the usurper Zionist regime, produce, sell, and use—wherever they feel necessary—the most forbidden of weapons such as chemical and nuclear weapons. They placed masses of chemical weapons at the Iraqi regime's disposal during the imposed war, which were used right in front of their noses, and they saw our wounded, too. But they still continued selling banned weapons to Iraq.

The leader of the Islamic revolution said the arrogant powers have no right to talk about banned arms. He said: We will do anything which conforms to our principles, and if we deem it necessary we will manufacture or obtain weapons, as we did during the imposed war. But we do not seek to obtain and use banned weapons, because we respect our principles and faith.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i attributed the largest volume of weapons' sale in the region and the world to countries in line with the aims of arrogant powers. He said: We have no fear of the false and biased propaganda of the enemy. Such propaganda will not prevent us from continuing on our correct path. We have no arms deals. Compared to the large purchases of countries which act in line with America's goals our arms purchases are infinitesimal, because we do not need them. [passage omitted]

Sources Note U.S. Attempt To Block Weapons Sale

PM0702145494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Feb 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Washington Succeeds in Persuading Ukraine To Abandon Plan To Arm Iran"]

[Excerpt] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—High-level diplomatic sources yesterday revealed the success of U.S. attempts to "persuade" Ukraine to withdraw an offer to sell Iran $1.2 billion worth of modern weapons.

Ukraine made this offer to Iran in November within the framework of a world Ukranian effort to find new oil supplies to replace what it used to import from its neighbor, Russia.

The sources pointed out that the question was raised during the meeting held last month in Kiev between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. [passage omitted]

Situation in Zahedan Remains 'Tense'

NC0602091494 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] According to reports received, even though a few days have elapsed since the massive demonstrations by the people of Zahedan against the clerical government, the situation in that city remains tense. The regime's guards and agents have arrested a large number of the city's residents, especially youths, in fear of more riots erupting, and this has further heightened the Zahedan people's anger at Khomeyni's regime.

The valiant people of Zahedan and the families of the martyrs of the latest demonstrations in that city have forced the Khomeyni regime to hand over the bodies of three of the martyrs of those demonstrations. The regime's officials—terrified at the Zahedan people's reaction at the last rites of the martyrs of the heroic demonstrations, which would fan their fury and hatred—had refrained from handing over the bodies.

In the course of the heroic uprising by the people of Zahedan, in addition to some being martyred, thirty people were also wounded. Some of the regime's guards and agents were also killed by the people.

Following the large-scale demonstrations by the people of Zahedan and the attack on Hashemi-Rafsanjani, which has plunged the entire regime in fear, Khamene'i issued a decree appointing Besharati, a (?member) of the shah's SAVAK and the current interior minister, as his replacement in the law enforcement forces for the next three years. [passage indistinct]

Guards Reopen Airport

PM0702145294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Feb 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Tension Dominates Zahedan Following Armed Confrontations; Security Forces Search Houses To Arrest Those Opposed to Mullah"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Iranian Revolution Guard Corps yesterday reopened the airport in Zahedan, provincial capital of the south-eastern region of the country—which allowed two planes carrying the full capacity to head for Tehran.

The airport was closed to air traffic last Tuesday when disturbances swept the city and then worsened later,

developing into armed confrontations between security forces and armed elements opposed to the government.

Eyewitnesses arriving from the city yesterday have said that the situation there is still tense and that security forces continue to search houses and buildings there.

It has been reported that security forces have arrested scores of people and moved some of them to Tehran. A committee comprised of three mullah arrived in Zahedan yesterday. It is sent by the "Supreme Guide" 'Ali Khamene'i to hold negotiations with Sunni leaders in the city in connection with the people's complaints. It is worth noting that the Sunni represent over 80 percent of the city's population. The authorities believe that maybe this reality was one of the factors behind the uprising against the Shiite mullahs' regime in Tehran.

However, Sunni leaders in the city have urged the city's inhabitants to remain calm, refuting the reports that the disturbances are linked to religious questions. Nevertheless, they have not yet announced their agreement to talk to the mullahs sent by Khamene'i from Tehran.

Eyewitnesses say that organized groups of young men spread in the main street in the city last Tuesday and began to overturn government vehicles and set government building ablaze, burning portraits of Khomeyni and other mullahs of the regime. A crowd of the city's residents chanted when the young men began to burn the Khomeyni flag which replaced the historic Iranian flag in 1979.

It has not yet been determined who was first to open fire, hence turning the peaceful demonstrations into violent incidents. However, individuals from the Baluchi tribes, which form much of the population in Zahedan, are usually armed to the teeth.

Local police, who are limited in number, did not make any attempt to control demonstrators. At any rate, the regular police are the object of the mullah regime's suspicion, as their political allegiance is suspect.

The demonstrators, who were angered by the opening of fire on them, tried to seize the local government's premises, but were forced to retreat after the guards opened fire on them. Two people were killed in the incident. An hour later the first Revolutionary Guard battalion arrived to scene aboard a helicopter from the nearby town of Khash. An armed confrontation erupted immediately between members of this battalion and unknown gunmen who tried to seize the radio station. Two members of the Guards were killed in the clash.

The "Revolutionary Guards" succeeded in evacuating government officials and a number of mullahs who had sought shelter in the governor's residence in the city. Further violent actions occurred in the afternoon of the same day when a group of Shiites were brought to the area by government trucks from the nearby Bazman area to—so it seemed—intimidate the demonstrators. But the Bazman group, led by two government mullahs, had to retreat after a brief confrontation with the Sunni demonstrators.

Eyewitnesses say that at least 50 people were wounded, and that 23 of them are still receiving treatment in local hospitals.

Security Minister Identifies Assassin's Group

LD0702095594 Tehran IRNA in English 0811 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—Iran's Information [Intelligence and Security] Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Fallahian in an interview with HAMSHAHRI daily said here today that Kurosh Nik Akhtar who tried to assassinate President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the first of February was a member of a clandestine terrorist group.

"In addtition to arresting Kurosh Nik Akhtar, who was apprehended because of the full awareness and prompt action of our courageous people on the first of February, a large network of his accomplices and cohorts have been identified," Fallahian said.

According to the minister over 20 persons who have been part of this network have been arrested so far.

The minister added that Nik Akhtar had changed his name from Kamareh'ee [name as received] and that the investigations had revealed that he and his accomplices had organized a meeting on the night prior to the assassination attempt to fully discuss the details of the plan to assassinate Iran's fourth president.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran in the February of 1979, the Islamic Republic was established. Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the second president in the history of this nascent republic, was killed along with Prime Minister, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Javad Bahonar, by a bomb that was planted in their office by a terrrorist MKO member. Terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), a group sponsored by Saddam Hussayn, also targeted Iran's third president, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, now the supreme leader of the Islamic revolution. During his term as the president Ayatollah Khamene'i was injured while addressing a crowd at a mosque.

President Rafsanjani, the fourth president of the Islamic republic who won his second term in the office by a landslide, was the target of a failed assassination attempt by forghan group in 1979, a group responsible for the death of many of the ideologues of the Islamic revolution such as the late Ayatollah Morteza Mottahari.

President Rafsanjani in an interview with Tehran radio after the assassination attempt said that he did not recognize at first what was going on, mistaking the gun shots for the explosion of a light bulb in the mausoleum of the late Imam Khomeyni.

Relates Other Details

LD0802115494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The intelligence and security Minister 'Ali Fallahian, in an interview with our reporter today, revealed new details of the assassination plot on the president's life.

Giving some examples of the conspiracies hatched by global arrogance in various dimensions this year, Mr. Fallahian said: On the security dimension alone, during the current year [ending 20 March 94] the mercenaries of foreign powers smuggled about 24 bombs into the country. But thanks to the vigilance of the hidden imam's unknown soldiers, 20 of these bombs were discovered and 16 people were arrested. Unfortunately, four of the said bombs exploded.

He added: During the current year, the country's security and intelligence organs have arrested about 40 spies, who have had links with Iraq.

Referring to the important role played by the president to advance the objectives of the Islamic revolution, the intelligence minister said: When the main elements responsible for the plot to assassinate the president were arrested it became clear that they are individuals with notorious records, low belief or no belief at all, low morals, and corrupt. Some of them have were affiliated with mini-groups [reference to opposition groups].

He went on: Among those arrested is an individual who has had links with some foreign embassies.

Besharati on Border Closure, Zahedan Incidents

LD0802122594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] By closing about 840 km of the country's eastern borders against the smugglers, routes used by the drug trafficking convoys from the borders into the country are blocked.

Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, in an interview with our correspondent, also said: The task of closing the borders in the vulnerable areas began from four months ago. The job was completed by digging canals of four meters deep and four meters wide, erection of many watch towers, and planting of mines along the routes used by the drug trafficking convoys. At present there is no possibility of such convoys finding their way into the country.

About the recent disturbances in Zahedan, which took place with provocation of the drug traffickers, the interior minister praised the Muslim and revolutionary people of Zahedan for staging a rally on Sunday to condemn the action of these saboteurs. He said: The Shiite and Sunni brothers and sisters, by staging a march in Zahedan to protest against the drug traffickers, have once again demonstrated their support for the Islamic revolution, the esteemed leader, and the president, and they have terminated all the conspiracies spread by internal and foreign enemies.

Rafsanjani Praises Resistance of Bosnian Muslims

LD0602152594 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Tehran, Feb 6, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today said the defenceless Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina are now exposed to one of the worst atrocities in history of mankind while many countries and international organizations look on indifferently.

The president lauded Bosnian Muslims for their bravery and heroic resistance, hoping that the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina would succeed in their jihad (holy struggle) to preserve their indentity.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani made the remarks in a meeting with foreign and Iranian artists participating in the international film, theater and music festivals here on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic revolution.

"The presence of Bosnian artists here will reflect the courageous spirit and resistance of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina to the world," he added. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Second Friday Prayer Sermon

LD0402191094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1204 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Jihad and the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice are designed to reform society. Of course, reform of the individual man is the reform of society but these things go in steps. Usually not all members of a society are mature and pious. That would be an ideal society. But maybe it is not our destiny to have such a society. Even according to our religious documents there will be wicked elements during the rule of the imam of time. Even in a revolutionary society, even in a pious society, even in a society where the majority of people are pious, jihad and the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice must continue to exist. Domestically, public supervision which is the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice is constructive, while jihad has greater meaning in facing foreign wickedness. Every society faces threats domestically and from outside. Today has been named the day of prayer after the factors that will guard the revolution. They will strengthen the very factors that brought about the revolution. Prayers are a necessity for humans; without praying, remembering God, and paying attention to spirituality, and without analyzing one's own actions, there will be no development of human character. Brothers and sisters, pay attention to your prayers. [passage omitted]

The Koran has always emphasized that we must look at both sides: the material and the spiritual. Our imams have said that those who forget either the material or the spiritual are not one of us. Extremism is condemned whichever way it may go. If we do not pray, fast, read the Koran, visit the shrines, or go on the hajj, and if we think that worshipping of the divine is limited to serving the people—even if we spend all our life serving the people—but fail to pay attention to spiritual matters, we will move toward destruction. But also if we think to the contrary and believe that the material life should be abandoned, then our society will be poor, we will be poor, the enemy will overcome us, we shall fall from honor, we will fall prey to the enemy, and we will be in chains. It is necessary to maintain interest in both.

The jihad for the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice is an issue of public supervision. We should be like mirrors to each other, reminding others—according to religious laws—of their weaknesses, and in order to show the wrong and the right path. We should look after each other. This is the essence of piety. These are the manifestations of a pious society. Those who think that it is possible to have a prosperous society without these spiritual elements are wrong.

What better evidence than the situation in the advanced western countries? The condition that they face, their spirit of aggression, their selfishness, and the great and dangerous injustice that prevails in the world, are all due to the fact that spiritual matters are not taken into account. Things that you now see in Bosnia and things that are happening in the Balkans are the best evidence for the brutality of arrogant powers. Over there there is great injustice and great treachery. The latest unfortunate event is that the Croatian Government's military force which was earlier the target of aggression and had thousands of men killed fighting against the Serbs, has now crossed the borders and is attacking the innocent Bosnian Muslim people, who are being attacked by the Serbs at the same time. The world has yet not taken a correct step in this case, although the Security Council has issued a warning and given a two-week deadline for sanctions. We expected the Security Council to take a serious view of this. It would be a terrible precedent for a neighboring country officially and militarily to er another country which is facing a so-called civil war, and in order to support a group of people who are of the same race—and to massacre an innocent people in such way. God willing, at least the neighboring countries and the effective powers of the Security Council will remain vigilant and will not tolerate this disgusting new suppression.

In today's Friday prayers we have some dear Muslim guests from the friendly Muslim country of Brunei. The sultan and his entourage are participating in our prayer ceremony. The fact that a national leader, despite his usual program when visiting another country, should remember the Friday prayers is a source of great satisfaction. They have come to the prayers and we welcome them and thank them. [passage omitted]

Meshkini in Qom Says Inflation Discussed With 'Leader'

LD0402204294 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1532 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Meshkini, member of the Assembly of Experts and senior lecturer at the Qom theological school, on 4 February—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] You should be somewhat patient. You should wait for a while. You have done something great. Your revolution is great. It has had many difficulties. You should know that with all these high prices and all these problems... [pauses] You will forgive me for taking so long to speak, but I am constantly unhappy about this issue, these high prices and problems. I should even tell you this: in the meeting that members of the Assembly of Experts had with the leader, despite the fact that it was not the place for such discussions and the issue did not concern the experts, it was put to their excellencies, the leader and the president as follows: Sir, you who are the first person of the country, and Sir, you who are the second person of the country—both of you are present—and we, members of the Assembly of Experts have a different task. But, we put forward this issue: the nation is unhappy with high prices, inflation, and some other matters. Be kind enough to think more of the nation.

This was discussed in that meeting and this is what the leader said in response: There has been no occasion in which I have gotten together with the president, two of us or more, and not discussed the issue of high prices, inflation, and people's problems.

You people should not worry. It is natural for such problems to exist. The hope is that the country's infrastructure has been well built, the result of which we will soon see. Be patient and, God willing, you shall receive both the goodness of the world as well as the hereafter. [passage omitted]

Velayati, Afghan Delegation Meet, Discuss Events

LD0702213594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Representatives of the Supreme Council for Coordinating the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan [Shura-ye Ali-ye Hamahangi-ye Enqelab-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan] met Foreign Minister Velayati in Tehran on Monday and discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan.

At the meeting, thanking Iran for her fundamental and wise policies on Afghanistan, the Afghan delegation said it was a good example of good-neighborly relations.

Referring to the latest developments in Afghanistan, they asked Iran to continue her efforts toward the establishment of peace in Afghanistan.

Referring to the fact that Iran's ambassador would remain in Kabul, our country's foreign minister said: This shows Iran's special attention to the events in Afghanistan.

Expressing regret about the continuation of fratricide in Afghanistan, Velayati said: Iran was considered one of the main supporters of our combative Afghan brothers during the war with foreign occupiers, and after the liberation of Afghanistan she began extensive efforts to halt the civil war there.

He added: Iran would seriously support any proposal by the warring groups that would end the war and bloodshed in Afghanistan and bring about a fair and honorable peace.

Azerbaijani President Meets Va'ezi in Baku

NC0802083294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The Azerbaijani president met the deputy foreign minister for Europe and Asia in Baku and congratulated him on the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, calling for accelerating the implementation of memoranda of understanding between Tehran and Baku. He said that Azerbaijan will do its best toward this end.

Aliyev described President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Baku as a turning point in bilateral relations and expressed the hope that during his visit to Iran, new ground for expanding bilateral relations will be examined.

During the meeting, the Azerbaijani president explained the latest developments in the Karabakh conflict and restated his country's wish for a peaceful solution of the conflict, pointing out that the Azerbaijani forces are sufficiently ready to defend the Republic's territorial integrity.

During the meeting, Va'ezi stated that one objective of his visit to Azerbaijan is to follow up the process of implementing the bilateral memoranda of understanding.

Defense Ministry Denies Arms Sent Somalia's Aidid

LD0702193394 Tehran IRNA in English 1811 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—The Islamic Republilc of Iran has never delivered any weaponry for supporters of General Farah Aidid of Somalia, an informed source at the Defence Ministry said here today.

The source said circulation of such unfounded news is in line with sinister plots aimed at distorting the image of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the world.

A former commander of the U.S-led multinational forces in Somalia had claimed last Saturday that Aidid supporters receive arms from Iran, Sudan and Iraq.

The source also denied claimes by an Arabic weekly that Iran held clandestine talks with the Czech Republic for the purchase of Russian weapons.

Expansion of Ties Discussed With Ukrainian Group

LD0702202294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] At a meeting between the head of the Ukrainian Parliament's Foreign Policy Commission and the Islamic Republic of Iran's deputy foreign minister, Mr. Va'ezi, the expansion of bilateral relations and regional and international issues were discussed. In the meeting the two sides stressed that in case peace and stability are established in the region, the little countries would be able to expand cooperation in proportion to improvement of their situation.

The trip of the Iranian president and the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly in response to visit of the Ukrainian president and the speaker of the parliament to Tehran was also reviewed in the meeting.

Resistance Activity in Lebanon Examined

NC0802072494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Commentary prepared by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The Zionist regime has admitted that the bold attack by Lebanon's Islamic Resistance mujahidin against Israeli military patrols in the occupied area in south Lebanon killed four Zionists and wounded two.

Although in such cases, the Zionist regime, which is helpless when it comes to such operations by the Muslim revolutionaries, always resorts to blind attacks on residential areas and finds many innocent Lebanese people rolling in blood, the continuation of the anti-Zionist resistance is of extreme political significance. Overtly colluding with the United States during the past two years, the Zionist regime has tried to make it look as if it seeks peace and attempted to hide its aggressive nature by participating in the so-called peace conference and by propagating false slogans. But the continuing operations by the Islamic Resistance mojahidin thwart much of this effort by Israel and clarify that the Zionist regime continues to occupy part of Lebanon and some other Arab countries and that it also extensively violates international regulations.

The operations by Lebanon's Muslim mujahidin against the Zionist occupiers also clarify another reality: Contrary to what the heads of some Arab states claim, Tel Aviv is vulnerable. Justifying their participation in the compromising talks with Israel in Washington, the Arab governments always speak of upsetting the Middle East's military balance in Israel's favor. But if this is true, then the operations by the Lebanese Muslim mujahidin show that

having faith in the struggle against this usurping regime can alter the material and power balance to a large extent.

Paper Views Iran's Changing Role in Middle East

PM0402111094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Feb 94 p 15

[Article by Khayrallah Khayrallah: "Iran Is Changing"]

[Text] As the peace process galvanizes the people of the Middle East and grips their attention, some extremely important matters sometimes disappear from the general picture, like what is happening in Iran. Is Iran still the same power trying to export its revolution or has the regime there now shifted to the phase of defending its own existence, and is that now its sole preoccupation?

It is clear that the Iran we knew at the time of the war with Iraq in the eighties is not the same as the Iran of today, whose revolution is now entering its 16th year trying to find a new and more pragmatic path. The daily facts of life, especially oil prices, dictate above all that there should be a search for new policies that would negate past policies without announcing it. For how is one to interpret the fact that in Lebanon, through its tools there, Iran appears to be most extremist about Israel but in the Gulf it establishes the best relations with Qatar, the country which has gone further than other Arab states in the region in responding to the peace process and whose prime minister met with the Israeli foreign minister twice, and the country which had expressed willingness to host one session of the multilateral negotiations, which would mean the arrival of an official Israeli delegation in Doha?

Qatar, of course, is free to follow any policy it likes, particularly as it is a sovereign state that knows its own interests. It is worth noting that Iran's upstaging stops at certain limits. Where the upstaging game benefits Tehran in defending the regime's past slogans and where such slogans are still alive, Tehran pursues that same policy as in Lebanon, but where appeasement appears to be desirable, such slogans disappear, as in the case of Qatar for instance.

It is true that the internal political polarizations sometimes make it necessary for Iranian politicians to continue to play that game even though it has proved to be very harmful to a country such as Lebanon, but it is also true that the changes taking place in Iran are now apparent to everyone. The evidence can be seen in the fact that Syria is engaging in the peace process without any consideration for the Iranian position. Even some of the Lebanese forces which had more than good links with Tehran are beginning to try to emphasize that there is some distance between them and Iranian policies and that their policies are Lebanese before being Iranian.

What is taking place in Iran is seen as part of the changes occurring in the region, radical changes that made the sight of Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat holding hands look quite ordinary as if they have been friends for decades. It remains to say that knowledge of what is going on calls for a minimum degree of thinking about the new picture emerging in the region and the willingness to acclimatize with reality and stop condemning every new element that appears in the picture. Even Iran is changing.

Kurdish Radio Views Iranian, Turkish, Syrian Talks

NC0802103994 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] On 5 February, the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey, and Syria met in Istanbul, allegedly to study the situation in Iraq again. This was the fourth tripartite session in this connection.

It is surprising that the three countries should decide to hold such sessions to examine the situation in Iraq and to express their concern over the [word indistinct] there, when they are not ready to allow an Iraqi Government representative or representatives of the Iraqi opposition or Iraqi Kurds to attend these sessions.

Apparently, the objective behind the tripartite session of the Iranian, Turkish, and Syrian foreign ministers is to examine the possibility of reaching a common stance on a possible dismemberment of Iraq. For some time, these three countries have been paying lip service to safeguarding Iraq's territorial integrity and shed crocodile tears for it without having specific proof that Iraq is being dismembered. This, when both Iran and Turkey still covet part of Iraqi territory and sometimes repeat their territorial claims on part of it.

But the three countries have not been plunged into concern and fear out of the threat of Iraq's dismemberment. The concern and fear stem from the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan and the intensification of the justice seeking struggle of the Kurdish people elsewhere in Kurdistan. The three countries do not consider the intensification of national and freedom seeking beliefs and the consolidation of national feeling among the Iranian, Turkish, and Syrian Kurds to come within the framework of the growing world trend that seeks democracy, but try to portray that all this stems from the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan. Thus, the Kurdish problem in general and the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan in particular are portrayed as an important and common problem for these three countries.

Iran, Turkey, and Syria rule over part of Kurdish territory and the Kurdish people throughout Kurdistan are striving to achieve their national and just rights. The three countries that control part of the Kurdish territory do not favor the fulfillment of the Kurdish people's aspirations and objectives in each part of Kurdistan. You can see clearly how the [words indistinct] allegedly shedding tears for Iraq's unity and integrity stem from the growing trend of the Kurdish people's freedom seeking movement.

The Islamic Republic, which has been [words indistinct] and suppressing the Kurdish people for over 15 years [words indistinct] for the Iraqi Kurds. In relation with this, Tehran scorns the Turkish Government for allowing the United States and its allies to use Turkish bases to support Iraqi Kurds. The Turkish Government, which for years has denied the existence of several million Kurds in eastern Turkey and has had to admit this existence because of domestic problems on the one hand and the West's public opinion on the other, has taken no serious step to ensure the national and political rights of the Kurds in Turkey. And finally, not only is Syria refraining from granting the just rights of the Syrian Kurds, but it is also trying to annihilate their national identity. It has always pursued the policy of crushing and decimating the Kurds.

Thus, the historic enmity of Iran, Turkey, and Syria toward the Kurdish people throughout Kurdistan leaves no doubt that the various sessions among the three countries' foreign ministers are not meetings to exchange views on the general situation in Iraqi Kurdistan, but an effort for more cooperation in their opposition and hostility to the formation of a Kurdish country within the framework of Iraq and an effort to find ways to suppress the Kurdish people elsewhere in Kurdistan.

In the current situation—in which the world's support for the Kurdish people can (?prevent) these three countries from showing more (?hostility) against the Kurdish movement in the various parts of Kurdistan—the [word indistinct] of the Kurdish people throughout Kurdistan to uncover behind the scene agreements and plots being hatched by these three countries is very opportune. In addition to these agreements, the regimes of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey are implementing a special joint agreement. Also, Iran, Turkey, and Syria have decided to continue their sessions and their plotting against the Kurdish people in future.

Undoubtedly, any joint effort by these three to crush the Kurdish people will meet strong reaction worldwide, including among the supporters of the Kurdish people. These three countries should understand that suppressing and plotting against the Kurdish people cannot solve the Kurdish problem. Experience has proven this. [Word indistinct], in addition to dozens of domestic problems, these three governments are united as far as machinations against the Kurdish people go. There are many signs, particularly those seen recently, that this unity and these machinations are intensifying and that these three countries are moving toward a common attempt against the Kurdish people's interests.

For this reason and to thwart any plot against the Kurdish people, the public and humanitarian organizations and forums should be better informed. The Kurds should [words indistinct], adding to their self- confidence. Consider the fear and concern felt by the three countries. This clearly shows that the Kurdish movement is intensifying [words indistinct].

Commentary Previews Upcoming Regional Talks

LD0502232694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The fifth joint session of the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey, and Syria has opened in Istanbul, Turkey. The session is being held to examine the issues of north Iraq, specially the events stemming from the recent Turkish air raids against the region and losses inflicted in these attacks on the border areas of Iran.

Besides the aforesaid cases, the three foreign ministers attending the session will also follow up the manner of enforcement of the memorandums of understanding and agreements reached at the last session held in Tehran. At the current session various issues including Bosnia-Herzegovina and terrorism in the region have been discussed. However reports say that the main subject of discussion relates to the negotiations among the parties concerned over the events of north Iraq and their impact in regional states.

Special attention of Iran, Turkey and Syria to the issues of Iraq, and their importance for each of these three states, or the outcome of the [words indistinct] occurrence in north Iraq can have impacts directly or indirectly in the neighboring countries.

Such impacts have an unbreakable link with the national security of Turkey, Syria and Iran.

While at the fourth session of these three countries' foreign ministers held in Tehran in June 1993, there was expressed concern over these adverse impacts within the framework of diplomatic wordings in the final communique, this concern has now emerged openly with the attack of Turkish war planes on Iran's border areas.

However the question is asked too: What factors undermine the security stressed by these three states at numerous sessions held by their foreign ministers in Tehran, Damascus, and Ankara?

Response to this question is evident in options for [words indistinct] and accessible even though faced with certain difficulties. The fact of the matter is that deployment of multinational forces on the soil and some territorial water of some regional states is one of the reasons behind eruption of such unrest once in a while. These are the troops which enter into action with the intention of backing the Kurds in north Iraq but bring suffering to them and to their pains by the way of their intelligence umbrella and their logistical support to military operations against the people of this region.

At any rate it is hoped that by virtue of the identity of views among Iran, Syria and Turkey over preserving the territorial integrity of Iraq, current session of their foreign ministers in Istanbul will think about the negative impacts caused by Iraq's internal situation and find a solution to the problems which are rooted outside the region.

This measure should be assessed not from the viewpoint of intervention in Iraq's affairs but in terms of the desire and commitment of Iran, Syria, and Turkey to bolster and stabilize regional security.

Clandestine Reports Regime Tightening Security

NC0502192794 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] According to reports received from Mashhad, in anticipation of an explosion of people's protests, the Khomeyni regime has increased its military presence and the number of armed personnel in this city. The report states that checkposts have been set up on intersections and vehicles are regularly checked. Repressive patrols are conducted on the streets. In order to tighten control, at times, the regime's agents block the streets or announce that they are one-way streets. The ruling clerics, who are still gripped with the fear of last year's heroic uprising by the Mashhad residents, are implementing these repressive actions in an attempt to control the mounting protests of the people of Mashhad.

'Reactionary' Deputies' Opposition to Price Hikes Noted

NC0502212994 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] The budget bill of the insolvent regime met with greater opposition this time due to the fear and apprehension of the reactionary Majles deputies of the explosive conditions in society and mounting protests by the people.

One of the reactionary Majles deputies, Khamushi, said that the 50.9 percent increase in current prices was shattering and stated: Unfortunately this budget will raise inflation to 50-60 percent.

It is worth mentioning that in the course of the discussions on the regime's budget bill, 120 of the reactionary Majles deputies, who were terrified of the explosion of popular discontent against high prices, presented a triple urgency bill to the Majles that stipulated that the government should be stripped of all authority to raise prices and grant only the Majles this right.

Commentary on Significance of Language, Culture

NC0602175794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Commentary from the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Excerpts] The first congress of Iranologists and of Persian language and literature academicians from Central Asia and the Caucasus opened in Tehran on Friday afternoon, 4 February, with a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the Cultural Heritage Organization. The congress, which is to continue until tomorrow, Monday, will study the role of Persian language and literature in the region and its influence on the culture and literature of countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus. [passage omitted]

Persian language and literature, which is influenced by Islam, prevails in extensive areas in southern, central, and western Asia and the peoples and nations in the region are familiar with this language and literature. This is at a time when the 70-year presence of communism in countries north of Iran prevented these peoples from becoming better acquainted with Persian culture and language and, as a result, from becoming better acquainted with their own ancient culture. The emergence of the Islamic revolution and the liberation of the nations in Central Asia and the Caucasus from the yoke of communism has made these nations show more interest in learning about Iran and its culture and language.

The truth is that the countries of the former Soviet Union are exerting great efforts to acquire their own culture and identity and to return to their historic Islamic roots. Meanwhile, the West is trying to propagate its own culture and to encourage these countries to follow Western culture. Thus, having strong cultural ties with these countries, and especially with Muslim-inhabited areas, can help them become acquainted with the Persian language and culture and with Islamic teachings and also help them realize that, like Iran, they can use Islamic culture to further enrich their society, language, literature, and culture and can do without the West.

Nonoil Export Figures Show Increase by Weight, Value

NC0802075194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] During the past 10 months, the country's nonoil exports increased 58 percent by weight and 33 percent by value on the same period last year. According to figures published by the Customs Organization, 4.642 million tonnes of nonoil goods worth 319 billion rials were exported during the past 10 months.

Hand-woven wool and silk carpets, pistachio nuts, copper, iron, steel, chemicals, copper and aluminum containers, hides, and dates were among the most important export items during this period.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.